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From J. Lewis to His dear Niece Emily Rosa Bantes
1871

AN

HISTORICAL TOUR

IN

MONMOUTHSHIRE;

ILLUSTRATED WITH

VIEWS BY SIR R. C. HOARE, BART.

A NEW MAP OF THE COUNTY,

AND

OTHER ENGRAVINGS:

BY

WILLIAM COXE, A.M. F.R.S. F.A.S.

RECTOR OF BEMERTON AND STOURTON.

PART THE SECOND.

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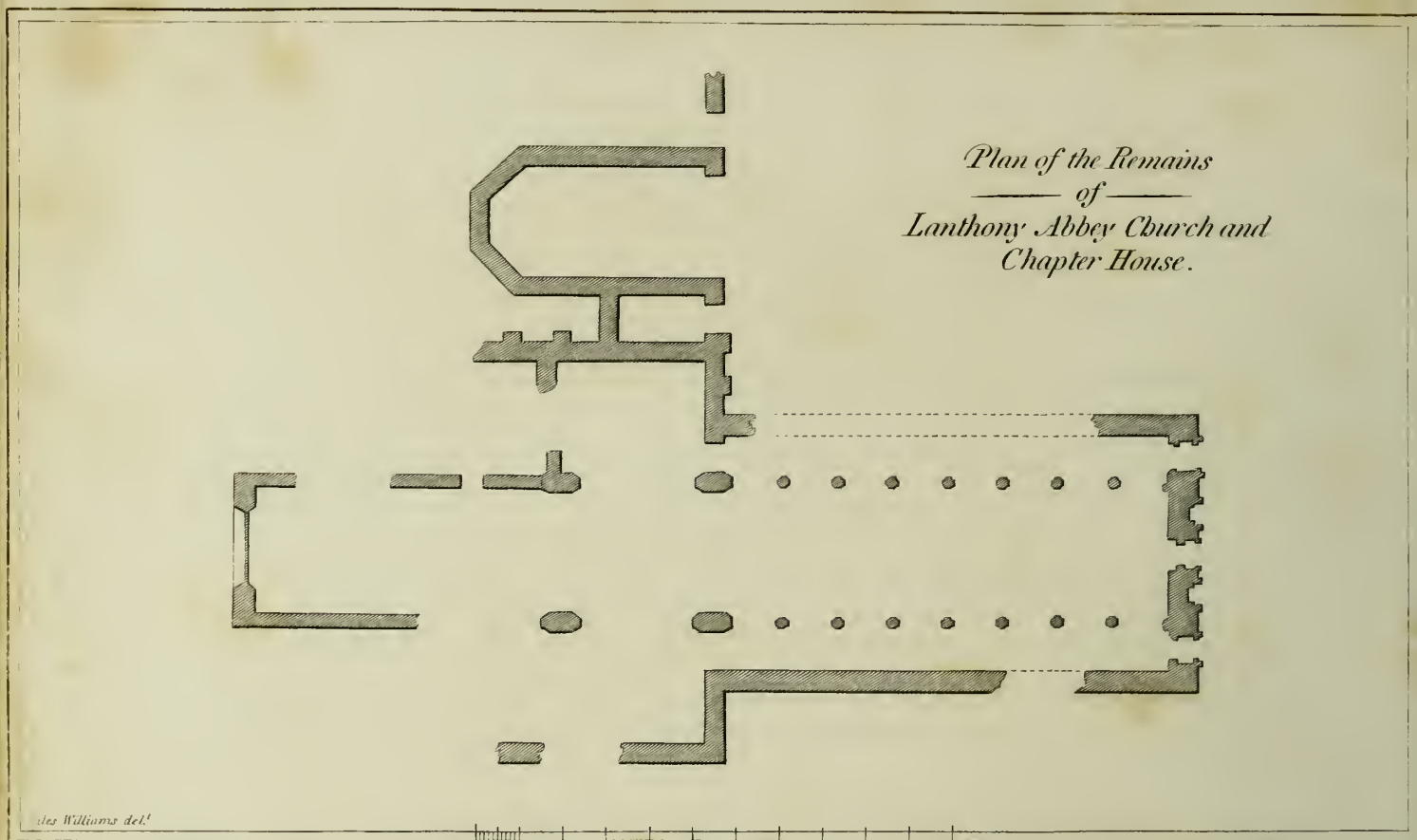

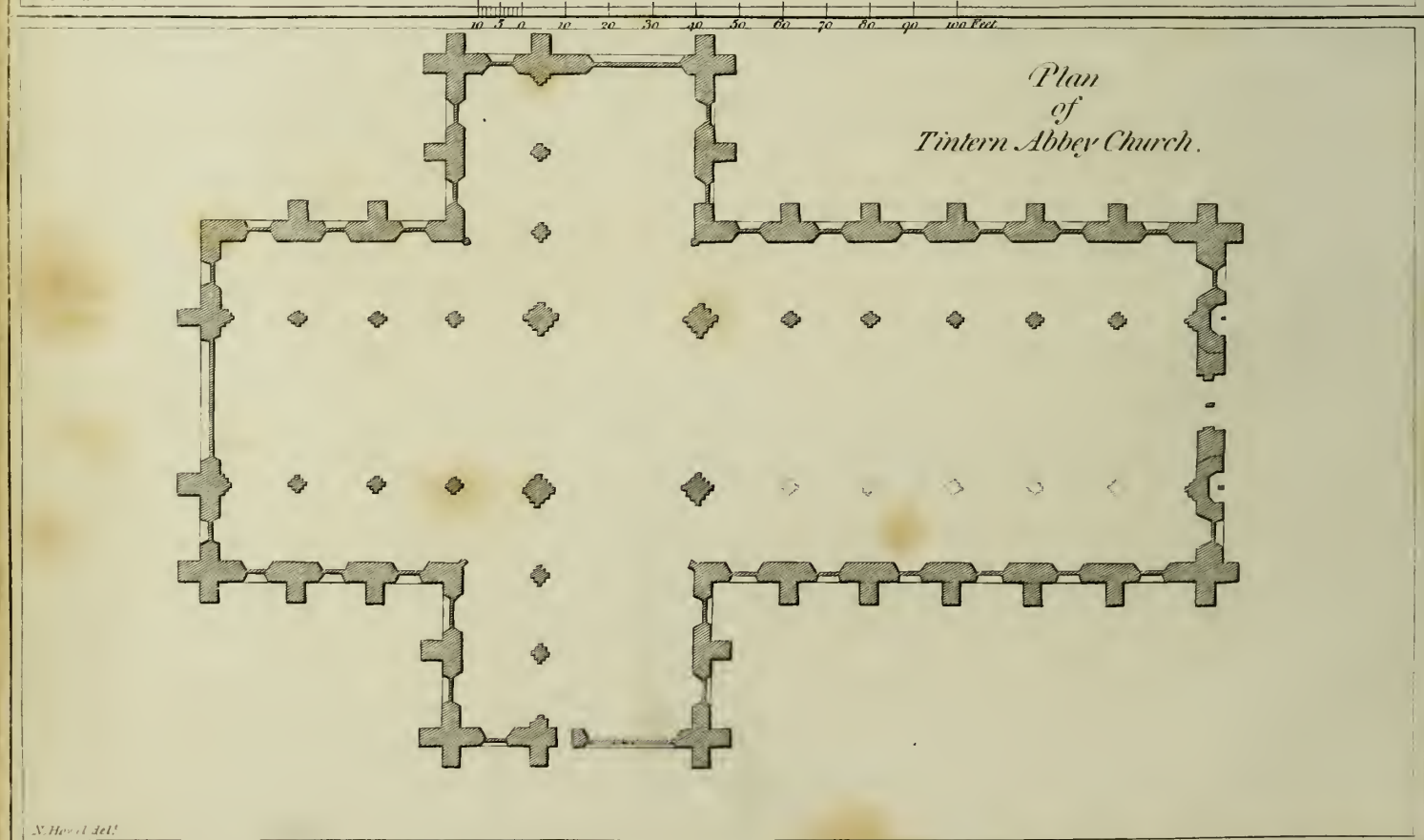

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CHAPTER 22.

Excurſion to Lanthony Abbey.—Situation and Ruins.—Hiſtory.

MY friend Mr. Wyndham was the firſt modern touriſt, who turned the attention of the traveller to the ruins of Lanthony abbey; his animated though brief deſcription excited my curioſity, and in the courſe of my ſucceſſive journies, I paid ſeveral viſits to the Vale of Ewias, in which theſe remains are ſituated, and received each time new impreſſions of delight.

The acceſs to the Vale of Ewias though unſafe for carriages, is not difficult on horſeback, and the latter part of the way is extremely intereſting to pedeſtrian travellers; pleaſant walks lead through the fields, above the precipitous banks of the Honddy, and preſent a conſtant ſucceſſion of romantic ſcenery, which is concealed from thoſe who traverſe the hollow roads in carriages or on horſeback. The uſual route from Abergavenny to Lanthony, paſſes along the Hereford road, on the eaſtern ſide of the Derry and Brynaro, to Lanvihangel Crickhornel; from whence it proceeds towards the Honddy, and inſtead of croſſing that ſtream, continues on the weſtern bank, through Lower and Upper Stanton. A ſhorter but more rugged way leads by a withered elm, near the four mile ſtone, and turning round the northern ſide of the Brynaro, joins the former road at Lower Stanton.

Having bruiſed my foot in an expedition to the mountains, I made my firſt excurſion in a poſt chaiſe, in company with the ſon of my friend ſir Richard Hoare. We turned by the ſcathed elm, into a narrow and hollow road, which we traverſed with extreme difficulty, and paſſed the hamlets of Lower and Upper Stanton. After catching a tranſient view of the Honddy, winding through a deep

glen, at the foot of hills overſpread with wood and ſprinkled with white cottages, we proceeded along a hollow way, which deepened as we advanced, and was ſcarcely broad enough to admit the carriage. In this road, which with more propriety might be termed a ditch, we heard the roar of the torrent beneath, but ſeldom enjoyed a view of the circumjacent ſcenery. We paſſed under a bridge, thrown acroſs the chaſm, to preſerve the communication between the fields on each ſide; this bridge was framed of the trunks of trees, and ſecured with ſide rails, to prevent the tottering paſſenger from falling into the abyſs beneath. It brought to my recollection ſeveral bridges of a ſimilar conſtruction, which I had obſerved in Norway, and which are likewiſe occaſionally uſed as aqueducts, for the purpoſes of irrigation. Emerging from this gloomy way, we were ſtruck with the romantic village of Cwmyoy, on the oppoſite bank of the Honddy, hanging on the ſides of abrupt cliffs, under a perpendicular rock broken into enormous fiſſures. We continued for ſome way between the torrent and the Gaer, and again plunged into a hollow road where we were incloſed, and ſaw nothing but the overhanging hedge-rows.

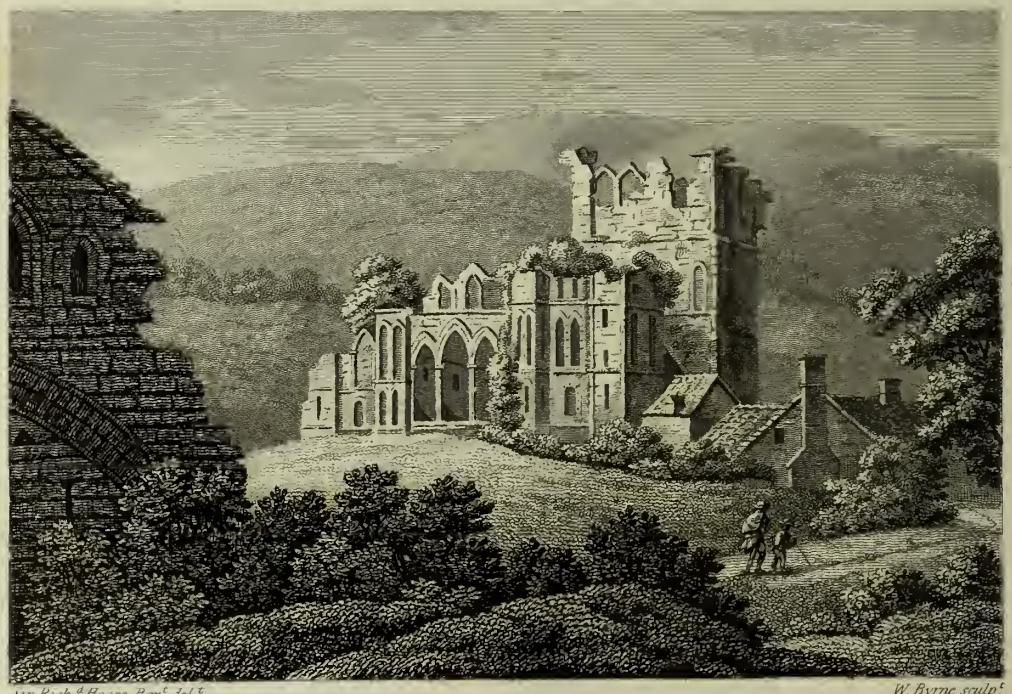
I would not recommend timid perſons to paſs this way in a carriage, for in the whole courſe of my travels, I ſeldom met with one more inconvenient and unſafe. Excepting in very few places, there is not room for a ſingle horſe to paſs by a chaiſe; and ſhould two carriages meet, neither could proceed, until one was drawn backwards to a conſiderable diſtance. The ſoil is boggy in wet, and rough in dry weather; the ruts worn by the ſmall Welſh cars are extremely deep, and oftentimes we were prevented from being overturned only by the narrowneſs of the road, and the ſteepneſs of the ſides, which would not allow the carriage to fall obliquely.

Having at length reached the Vale of Ewias, we deſcended from our carriage, and croſſing the Honddy, approached the ruins, which occupy a ſolitary ſpot in the wild receſſes of the Black mountains.

The abbey was built like a cathedral, in the ſhape of a Roman croſs, and though of ſmall dimenſions, is well proportioned. The length from the weſtern door to the caſtern extremity is 212 feet, and the breadth, including the two aiſles,

FATHER IGNATIUS.—The monastery founded by the Rev. Mr. Lyne (Father Ignatius) is now in course of erection, and the exterior walls are already raised many feet in height. It is situated in a most remote spot at the top of the secluded vale of Ewilas, among spurs of the Brecknockshire "Black Mountains," called the Batterell Hills, at a place called Capel-y-fin—the "Chapel of the Boundary" of three counties, Brecon, Hereford, and Monmouth. There is a small church at this place, and a road to it by way of the ruins of Llanthony Abbey. The site of the new monastery is four miles from Llanthony Abbey by a bad road, which stops at Capel-y-fin. The materials for the building—stone—are supplied on the spot.

1870



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LLANTHONY ABBEY.

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aiſles, 50; the length of the tranſept from north to ſouth 100. It was conſtructed ſoon after the introduction of gothic architecture, and before the diſuſe of the Norman, and is a regular compoſition of both ſtyles. The whole roof, excepting a ſmall fragment in the north aiſle, is fallen down, and the building is extremely dilapidated. The nave alone exhibits a complete ſpecimen of the original plan, and is ſeparated on each ſide from the two aiſles, by eight pointed arches, reſting on piers of the ſimpleſt conſtruction, which are divided from an upper tier of Norman arches by a ſtrait band or faſcia. From the ſmall fragment in the northern aiſle, the roof ſeems to have been vaulted and engroined, and the ſpringing columns, by which it was ſupported, are ſtill viſible on the walls.

Four bold pointed arches in the center of the church ſupported a ſquare tower, two ſides of which only remain. The ornamented arch in the eaſtern window, which appears in the engraving in Mr. Wyndham's tour, and in that publiſhed by Hearne *, is now fallen. The only veſtiges of the choir are a part of the ſouth wall, with a Norman door that led into a ſide aiſle, and the eaſt end of the north wall; a bold Norman arch, leading from the tranſept into the ſouthern aiſle of the choir, ſtill exiſts, and is repreſented in the eaſt view. The walls of the ſouthern aiſle are wholly dilapidated, and the ſide view of the two ranges of gothic arches, ſtretching along the nave, is ſingularly pictureſque; the outſide wall of the north aiſle is entire, excepting a ſmall portion of the weſtern extremity; the windows of this part are wholly Norman, and make a grand appearance. In a word, the weſtern ſide is the moſt elegant; the northern the moſt entire; the ſouthern the moſt pictureſque, and the eaſtern the moſt magnificent.

To the ſouth of the tranſept is a neat little gothic chapel, with an engroined roof, in entire preſervation: it meaſures 22 feet in length, 10 feet and a half in breadth, and 15 in height. To the ſouth of this chapel are the remains of an oblong room, which was probably the chapter houſe; beyond is a doorway, ſimilar to that of the chapel, communicating with ſome apartments now dilapidated.

Remains of ancient buildings may ſtill be traced in the vicinity; in a barn,

* See Hearne's and Byrne's Antiquities.

to the weſt of the ruins, is a fine arch, which is ſuppoſed to have formed the grand entrance into the abbey. A ſubterraneous paſſage, faced with hewn ſtone, about 4½ feet high, has been diſcovered near this place, which according to the tradition of the natives, leads under the mountains to Oldcaſtle; but probably was nothing more than a branch of the common ſewer.

While ſir Richard Hoare, whom we joined at the ſpot, was employed in taking the ſketches, which have enabled me to preſent the annexed engravings to the public, I amuſed myſelf in contemplating the ruins in every point of view, and admiring the ſcenery of this ſequeſtered but pleaſing valley.

Theſe beautiful remains are haſtening to decay, and the preſent generation may perhaps witneſs their deſtruction. Mr. Wyndham has given in his tour, an accurate perſpective of the internal architecture, and Mr. Hearne has publiſhed an elegant engraving of the north-eaſt view. To preſerve the external appearance of the building from that oblivion, which will accompany its decay, engravings of the four principal aſpects are annexed, with a general view of the ruins, and their pictureſque ſituation. They preſent a different appearance from all thoſe which I viſited in Monmouthſhire; they are wholly free from ivy, and the few ſhrubs which ſtart from the crevices, and fringe the walls, do not conceal any part of the architecture. The yellow tints, which age has imparted to the grey ſtone, produce a pleaſing and mellow effect; the breadth and maſſive remains of the dilapidated tower, are relieved in every point of view by the mountains in the back ground, and the general character of the whole is majeſtic ſimplicity.

Theſe ruins derive alſo a peculiar beauty from their ſituation in the deep vale of Ewias, which unites drearineſs and fertility, and is well adapted to monaſtic ſolitude. The vale itſelf is fertile in corn and paſture, occaſionally tufted with trees, and enlivened by the tranſparent and murmuring Honddy; it is wholly encircled by an amphitheatre of bleak and lofty mountains, which ſeem to exclude all intercourſe with the reſt of the habitable world. Hence it preſents different aſpects: in a ſerene ſky and glowing ſunſhine, the landſcape conveys the idea of a pleaſing retirement; under a loaded atmoſphere, and in cloudy weather,

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NORTH VIEW OF LLANTHONY ABBEY.

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weather, gloom and dreariness predominate. It was my good fortune to receive the first impressions from this romantic scenery, under the most favourable circumstances; the day was serene, the weather clear, the sun shone in full splendour, and while it softened the rugged aspect of the surrounding mountains, threw a glow of transparency over the majestic ruins.

A curious account of the foundation and history of Lanthony, written in Latin by a monk of the abbey, is preserved in Dugdale's Monasticon, and translated by Atkyns in the history of Gloucestershire; I shall submit to the reader an abstract of this account, and interweave various circumstances from Giraldus Cambrensis, and other authors, which are not mentioned by the monk of Lanthony.

St. David, uncle of king Arthur, and titular saint of Wales, finding a solitary place among woods, rocks, and valleys, built a small chapel on the banks of the Honddy, and passed many years in this hermitage: on his death it was unfrequented during several centuries. This small chapel was called Lan Dewi Nant Honddu *, or the church of St. David on the Honddy, which has been corrupted into Lanthony.

In the reign of William Rufus, Hugh de Laci, a great Norman baron, followed the deer into this valley, and reposed himself with his suite after the chace. William, one of his military retainers, being fatigued with heat and the roughness of the way, lay himself down on the grass to refresh himself. Impressed with the wild solitude of the scenery, he espied the chapel of St. David, and being suddenly impelled by religious enthusiasm, dismissed his companions, and devoted himself to the service of God. "He laid aside his belt," says the monk of Lanthony, "and girded himself with a rope; instead of fine linen he covered him-"self with hair-cloth, and instead of his soldier's robe he loaded himself with "weighty irons. The suit of armour which before defended him from the darts "of his enemies, he still wore as a garment to harden him against the soft "temptations of his old enemy Satan, that, as the outward man was afflicted by "austerity, the inner man might be secured for the service of God. That his

"zeal

* Pronounced Honthy.

" zeal might not cool, he thus crucified himſelf, and continued his hard armour " on his body until it was worn out with ruſt and age."

After paſſing ſeveral years alone in this ſolitude, the auſterity of his life, and his reputation for ſanctity, induced the venerable Erneſi, chaplain to queen Maud, wife of Henry the firſt, to become his aſſociate. By their united efforts they built a ſmall chapel, which in 1108 was conſecrated by Urban biſhop of the dioceſe, and Rameline biſhop of Hereford, and dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt, whoſe ſolitary life in the wilderneſs they affected to imitate.

Soon afterwards Hugh de Laci, earl of Hereford, founded, at the inſtigation of Erneſi, a priory of canons regular of the order of St. Auſtin, likewiſe dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt. Erneſi was choſen prior, and under his regulations, and by his and his brother hermit's example, the new monaſtery acquired ſuch a reputation for ſanctity, " that the great men of the realm, as well Henry the firſt and " his queen, regulated the temporal concerns of the abbey, and accounted them- " ſelves happy to have the prayers of this holy congregation."

In conſequence of this celebrity, large donations in money and lands were repeatedly offered; but Erneſi and his brother hermit declined all gifts, chuſing, as they ſaid, " to dwell poor in the houſe of God." They even put up public prayers againſt an increaſe of wealth, and deprecated every acquiſition of property as a dreadful misfortune. A whimſical anecdote on this ſubject is related by the monk of Lanthony: " Queen Maud, not ſufficiently acquainted with " the ſanctity and diſintereſtedneſs of William, once deſired permiſſion to put " her hand into his boſom; and when he with great modeſty ſubmitted to her " importunity, ſhe conveyed a large purſe of gold between his coarſe ſhirt and " iron boddice, and thus by a pleaſant and innocent ſubtlety, adminiſtered ſome " comfortable relief to him. But oh! the wonderful contempt of the world! " He diſplayed a rare example that the trueſt happineſs conſiſts in little or " nothing! He complied indeed, but unwillingly, and only with a view that " the queen might employ her devout liberality in adorning the church."

This ſcrupulous delicacy once overcome, riches poured abundantly upon the new eſtabliſhment; large buildings were erected for their convenience, and

Sir Richd Hoare Bart. del t

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SOUTH VIEW OF LLANTHONY ABBEY.

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a more magnificent church was conſtructed. The preciſe æra of its foundation is not aſcertained; but it was undoubtedly raiſed between 1108 and 1136, when the greater part of the monks removed to Hereford. We know, from the authority of Giraldus Cambrenſis, that in 1186 it had been long finiſhed; he deſcribes it as covered with lead, and not inelegantly conſtructed, with a roof of ſtone *.

The ſtate and ſituation of the monaſtery at this period are thus deſcribed by the monk of Lanthony: "There ſtands in a deep valley a conventual church, "ſituated to promote true religion, beyond almoſt all the churches in England; "quiet for contemplation, and retired for converſation with the Almighty; "here the ſorrowful complaints of the oppreſſed do not diſquiet, or the mad "contentions of the froward do not diſturb; but a calm peace and perfect "charity invite to holy religion, and baniſh diſcord. But why do I deſcribe the "ſituation of the place, when all things are ſo much changed ſince its priſtine "eſtabliſhment? The broken rocks were traverſed by herds of wild and ſwift "footed animals †; theſe rocks ſurrounded and darkened the valley, for they "were crowned with tall towering trees, which yielded a delightful proſpect, at "a great diſtance, to all beholders, both by ſea and land. The middle of the "valley, although clothed with wood, and ſunk into a narrow and deep abyſs, "was ſometimes diſturbed by a ſtrong blighting wind, at other times ob-"ſcured with dark clouds and violent rains, incommoded with ſevere froſts, "or heaped up with ſnow, whilſt in other places there was a mild and gentle "air.

"The large and plentiful ſprings from the neighbouring mountains fell with "a pleaſant murmur into a river, in the midſt of the valley, abounding with "fiſh. Sometimes, after great rains, which were extremely frequent, the floods, "impatient of conſtraint, inundated the neighbouring places, overturning rocks, "and

* "Eccleſia plumbeis laminis operta, lapideo ta-"bulatu pro loci natura non indecentu extructa." Itin. Cam. c. 3.

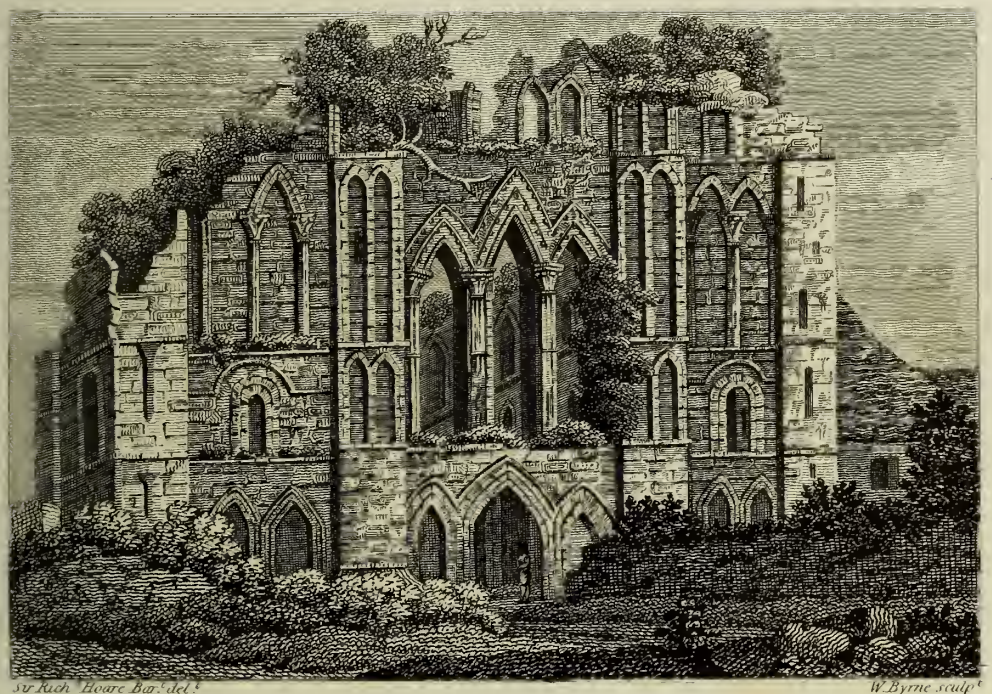
† Theſe animals were principally deer: Giraldus Cambrenſis alſo mentions the herds of wild animals which browſed on theſe mountains. "Hic clauſtra-"les in clauſtro ſedentes cùm reſpirandi gratia forte "ſuſpiciunt, ad quaſcunque partes trans alta tecto-"rum culmina, montium vertices quaſi cœlum tan-"gentes, ipſaſque plerumque feras (quarum hic "copia eſt) in ſummo paſcentes tanquam in ultimo "viſas horizonte proſpiciunt."

" and tearing up trees by the roots. Theſe ſpacious mountains, however, con-
" tained fruitful paſtures, and rich meadows for feeding cattle, which compen-
" ſated for the barrenneſs of other parts, and made amends for the want of corn.
" The air, though thick, was healthful, and preſerved the inhabitants to an ex-
" treme old age; but the people were ſavage, without religion, vagabonds, and
" addicted to ſtealth; they had no ſettled abode, and removed as wind and
" weather inclined them."

But this period of ſplendour and tranquillity ceaſed with the reign of Henry the firſt; during the conteſt between the empreſs Maud and Stephen, the monks were oppreſſed, pillaged, and often groſsly inſulted, by the natives. The monk of Lanthony gives in ſober ſadneſs a ſtriking account of the ſufferings which occaſioned their removal from the valley of Ewias. " A neighbouring Welſhman
" ſought refuge from his perſecutors in that conſecrated place; but his enemies,
" purſuing him with inexorable malice, waylaid him in the outward court. In
" this diſtreſs he fled, with the women of his family, into the innermoſt offices;
" the women ſeize the refectory; and are not aſhamed to ſing and profane the
" place with their light and effeminate behaviour. What could the ſoldiers of
" Chriſt do? They are ſurrounded without by the weapons of their enemies;
" arms are without doors, and frights within: they cannot procure ſuſtenance
" to ſatisfy their hunger, nor attend divine ſervice with accuſtomed reverence,
" from the vain inſolence of their ungrateful gueſts."

In this diſtreſs, they applied to Robert de Betun, biſhop of Hereford, who had ſucceeded Erneſi as prior; the biſhop, compaſſionating their ſufferings, invited them to Hereford, reſigned his palace, and for two years maintained all who quitted the convent at his own charge. He then prevailed on Milo de Laci to grant a ſpot of ground, called Hyde, near Gloceſter, where, with the money ſaved from Lanthony, and with farther ſupplies from the biſhop, they built a church, in the ſpace of a year, which was ſolemnly conſecrated, in 1136, by the biſhops of Worceſter and Hereford; it was dedicated to

* Speed confounds Lanthony in Monmouthſhire with Lanthony in Gloceſterſhire, and aſſerts that the former was not founded before 1137



Sr Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t W.Byrne sculp.t

WEST VIEW OF LLANTHONY ABBEY.

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to the Virgin Mary; and was called Lanthony, after the name of the former church. In this ſpot they eſtabliſhed themſelves as a temporary reſidence; the new convent was a cell to the ancient monaſtery, to which the majority of the monks were bound to return on the reſtoration of peace and tranquillity.

Milo and his family endowed Lanthony the ſecond with large poſſeſſions; king John alſo was a conſiderable benefactor, and gave ſeveral grants of land. By theſe acceſſions, the new Lanthony roſe in opulence and ſplendour; the monks, courted by the great, and abounding in every ſpecies of luxury, were delighted with their ſituation, and forgot the original wilderneſs. They not only refuſed to return, but even claimed for the new eſtabliſhment the pre-eminence over the mother church; while the few who continued to reſide in the valley of Ewias, were oppreſſed and pillaged.

The monk of Lanthony pours forth, in the moſt pathetic language, doleful complaints on the deſolated ſtate of the mother church. " When the ſtorm " ſubſided, and peace was reſtored, then did the ſons of Lanthony tear up the " bounds of their mother church, and refuſe to ſerve God as their duty " required; for they uſed to ſay, there was much difference between the city of " Gloceſter and the wild rocks of Hatyrel; between the river Severn and the " brook of Hodani; between the wealthy Engliſh and the beggarly Welch. " *There* fertile meadows, *here* barren heaths; wherefore, elated with the luxuries " of their new ſituation, and weary of this, they ſtigmatized it as a place unfit " for a reaſonable creature, much leſs for religious perſons. I have heard it " affirmed, and I partly believe it, that ſome of them declared in their light " diſcourſe, (I hope it did not proceed from the rancour of their hearts) 'they " wiſhed every ſtone of this ancient foundation a ſtout hare.' Others have " ſacrilegiouſly ſaid (and with their permiſſion I will proclaim it) they wiſhed the " church, and all its offices, ſunk to the bottom of the ſea. They have uſurped " and laviſhed all the revenues of the church: *there* they have built lofty and " ſtately offices; *here* they have ſuffered our venerable buildings to fall to ruin. " And to avoid the ſcandal of deſerting an ancient monaſtery, long accuſtomed " to religious worſhip, and endowed with large poſſeſſions, they ſend hither their

" old and uſeleſs members, who can be neither profitable to themſelves or " others; who might ſay with the apoſtle, ' We are made the ſcum and outcaſt of " the brethren.' They permitted the monaſtery to be reduced to ſuch poverty, " that the friars were without ſurplices, and compelled to perform the duties of " the church, againſt the cuſtom and rules of the order. Sometimes they had no " breeches, and could not attend divine ſervice; ſometimes one day's bread muſt " ſerve for two, whilſt the monks of Gloceſter enjoyed ſuperfluities. Our re- " monſtrances either excited their anger or ridicule, but produced no alteration: " if theſe complaints were repeated, they replied, ' who would go and ſing to " the wolves? Do the whelps of wolves delight in loud muſic?' They even " made ſport, and when any perſon was ſent hither, would aſk, ' What fault has " he committed? Why is he ſent to priſon?' Thus was the miſtreſs and mother " houſe called a dungeon, and a place of baniſhment for criminals.

" Notwithſtanding theſe ſcandalous and cruel oppreſſions, many reſpected the " mother church with the affection of a ſon; yet none ventured to ſtand up in " her behalf; none dared to complain; if any one preſumed to mutter, he " was puniſhed as a heinous delinquent: all therefore acquieſced, whilſt God " by his juſt will, though unaccountable unto us, permitted the library to " be deſpoiled of its books; the ſtorehouſe of its deeds and charters; of its ſilk " veſtments and relicks, embroidered with gold and ſilver; and the treaſury " of all its precious goods. Whatever was valuable or ornamental in the " church of St. John, was conveyed to Gloceſter, without the ſmalleſt oppoſi- " tion; even the bells, notwithſtanding their great weight, were tranſported to " the ſame place."

The deſolated ſtate of the abbey in the valley of Ewias, induced Edward the fourth to unite the two monaſteries, by charter, in which he made the church near Gloceſter the principal, and obliged the monks to maintain a reſidentiary prior and four canons in the original abbey. It is however undecided whether this union took place; for at the diſſolution of monaſteries, the two abbies are ſeparately valued; that near Gloceſter at £.648. 19*s.* 11*d.* and this in Monmouthſhire, at £.71. 3*s.* 2*d.** At this period John Ambrus was prior of Lanthony,

* Dugdale's Monaſt. According to Speed, £.748. 0*s.* 11*d.* and £.112. 1*s.* 5*d.*

Sir Richd Hoare Bar^t del.^t *W. Byrne sculp.^t*

LANTHONY ABBEY, EAST VIEW.

Lanthony, in Monmouthſhire, and with John Neleand, and three others, ſubſcribed to the ſupremacy in 1534*.

The ſite of this monaſtery was granted to Richard Arnold†, and together with the eſtate, purchaſed from captain Arnold, of Lanvihangel, by auditor Harley, and is now the property of the preſent earl of Oxford.

* Willis's Mitred Abbies, vol. 2. p. 142. Wharton, in his Anglia Sacra, vol. 2. p. 321. has given a catalogue of the priors, from Erneſi till the diſſolution, when Richard Hempſted, whom Anthony Wood calls Hart, was prior of Lanthony in Gloceſterſhire. In 1534 he ſubſcribed to the ſupremacy, with twenty-two others, and in 1539 ſigned the ſurrender with the ſame number. He obtained a penſion of £.100 per annum. According to Wood, he gave many ancient manuſcripts, which he had taken from the library of the abbey, to his brother-in-law.—Thyre. Athenæ Oxonienſes, vol. 2. p. 520.

† Jones's Index to the Records of the Exchequer, art. Ricardus Arnold. Tanner calls him Nicholas Arnold.

CHAPTER 23.

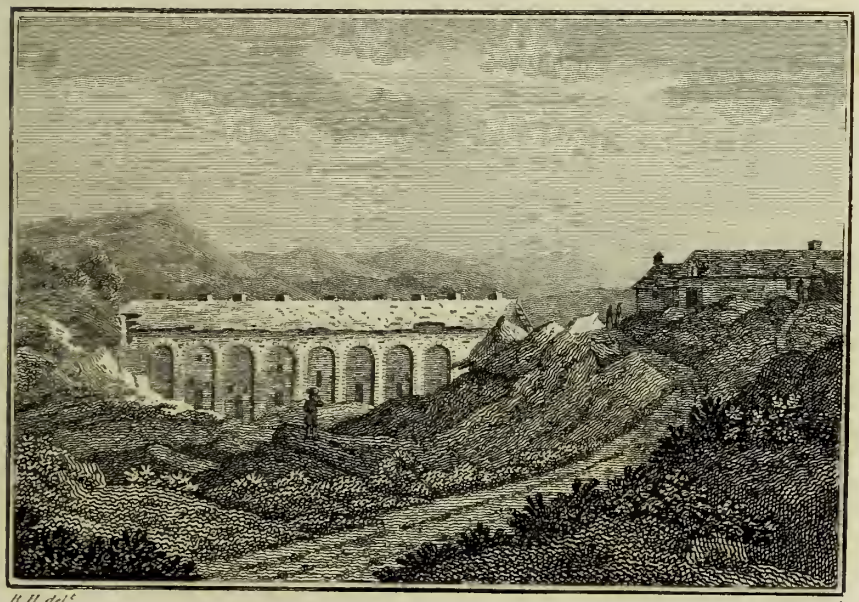
Excurſions into the Mountains in the Vicinity of Lanvihangel.—Oldcaſtle.—Character of Lord Cobham.—Encampment above Trewyn Houſe.—Altyrynys.—Campſton Hill and Houſe.—Langua.—Summit of the Gaer.—Situations and Forms of the adjacent Mountains.—Vale of Langruny.—Junction of the Three Counties.—Coed y Gruny.—Maſſacre of Richard Earl of Clare.

BESIDES repeated viſits to Lanthony, I made various excurſions in that mountainous region which lies to the north-weſt of Abergavenny; a diſtrict imperfectly laid down in all the maps of Monmouthſhire, and which I was therefore deſirous of viſiting. From Lanvihangel Crickhornel, ſituated at the extremity of the paſs between the Skyrrid and the Black mountains, five miles from Abergavenny, I uſually took my departure; here I left my chaiſe, and proceeding on horſeback explored this intereſting tract; here I returned, and after fatiguing excurſions, ſometimes walking, and ſometimes riding, gladly reſumed my place in the carriage, and reached Abergavenny at the cloſe of the evening.

My firſt excurſion was to Oldcaſtle, according to Gale and Stukeley the Bleſtium of Antoninus, and the reſidence of the celebrated reformer ſir John Oldcaſtle lord Cobham. From Abergavenny, in company with ſir Richard Hoare, I rode along the Hereford road, as far as Lanvihangel, then turned to the left, and proceeded to the Honddy, where the road ſeparates into two branches, one leading to Lanthony, and the other to Longtown in Herefordſhire. We purſued the latter route, croſſed the river over a ſtone bridge, continued at the foot of the Black mountains, and after traverſing a ſmall diſtrict of Herefordſhire,

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

OLD CASTLE.



R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

COVER'D BRIDGE AT BLANEAVON.

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ſhire, in which Trewyn houſe is ſituated, re-entered Monmouthſhire. Between three and four miles from Lanvihangel, we deſcried the church and village of Oldcaſtle placed on the ſlope of the Black mountains, and quitting the road aſcended to the ſpot. This little village has been magnified into a Roman ſtation, and erroneouſly ſuppoſed by Gale and Stukeley to be the ſite of the ancient Bleſtium *, although neither its poſition or appearance in the ſmalleſt degree juſtify the conjecture. This opinion was founded merely on the diſcovery of a few Roman coins, and on the veſtiges of ancient encampments in the vicinity. There are indeed the remains of many encampments, and the Roman road from Gobannium or Abergavenny, to Magna or Kencheſter, ran in the direction of the preſent high road from Lanvihangel to Longtown. It is therefore probable, that the Romans had ſmall camps for the protection of this road, of which the ſuppoſed ſtation of Oldcaſtle may have been one. Slight traces of circular entrenchments are viſible near the church, but not ſufficient to indicate either the æra or purpoſe of their conſtruction.

Oldcaſtle was remarkable as the reſidence of the celebrated reformer ſir John Oldcaſtle lord Cobham, who is called by Horace Walpole, "the firſt author, as well as the firſt martyr among our nobility." He aſſumed his name from this place, and became lord Cobham in virtue of his marriage with Joan †, granddaughter and heireſs of John lord Cobham. He was a man of great talents, ſpirit, and courage; and after being the diſſolute companion of Henry the fifth, was, like his maſter, awakened to virtue by a ſenſe of religion. Diſguſted with the corruptions of the church of Rome, and enlightened by the arguments of Wickliff, he became the chief of the Lollards, and ſhook by his writings and example the authority of the Roman ſee. His bitter reproaches againſt the hierarchy excited perſecution; perſecution inflamed his ardent temper, and urged him to petulance of expreſſion, and deeds of violence, which outraged even the tolerating

* See chapter on Monmouth.

† She is ſaid to have had five huſbands; the firſt was ſir Robert de Hemenhele, knight; the ſecond was ſir Reginald Braybrook, who died in 1405, by whom ſhe left an only daughter, Joan, who conveyed her barony and eſtates to her huſband ſir Thomas Brooke of Somerſetſhire; the third ſir Nicholas Hawberk, who died 1407; the fourth was ſir John Oldcaſtle; the fifth was ſir Nicholas Harpeden, knight. She died in 1433, and was buried in Cobham church.

Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, p. 103.

rating ſpirit of Henry the fifth. He was condemned for hereſy and rebellion; at the ſtake he diſplayed the greateſt calmneſs and intrepidity of mind, and gave an inſtance of ſingular enthuſiaſm, by requeſting favour for the Lollards, ſhould he riſe again the third day *. Poſterity have forgotten his defects in his virtues, the enthuſiaſt is loſt in the martyr; his death is an epoch in the annals of the church, and the reformation ſprung from his aſhes.

The old caſtle, called the court houſe, ſuppoſed to be the reſidence of this celebrated perſonage, was taken down about thirty years ago, and a new farm houſe conſtructed from the materials. Although nothing remains to ſatisfy the antiquary or hiſtorian, yet the traveller will be pleaſed with the ſingular and pictureſque ſituation of the church and village, on the ſides of a bleak and hoary mountain, the ſummit of which overhangs the ſequeſtered vale of Ewias, and commands an extenſive view of the fertile diſtricts of Herefordſhire and Monmouthſhire. The contraſt between the bleak ſummit of the mountain and the rich meadows beneath, which are watered by the winding Monnow, is extremely ſtriking.

To the ſouth of Oldcaſtle, on the ſame chain of the Black mountains, are the remains of an ancient encampment, on the brow of the precipice above Trewyn houſe, in the county of Hereford, but cloſe to the frontiers of Monmouthſhire. It conſiſts of an oblong rectangular entrenchment, incloſing an area of 485 feet by 240, and bears evident marks of Roman origin. On one ſide is an outer and larger entrenchment, of a ſemicircular form, defended with a double ditch and rampart, which was probably poſterior to the original fortreſs, and added by the Britons or Saxons, when they occupied this poſt; it was an excellent ſituation, as well for an exploratory camp, as for the defence of the road, which ran near the foot of the eminence. This height, in addition to the extenſive objects ſeen from Oldcaſtle, looks down upon the receſſes of the Black mountains, and commands the range of hills which ſtretch from the neighbourhood of Abergavenny, beyond the frontiers of Brecknockſhire and Herefordſhire.

From this encampment I walked down the ſteep ſide of the mountain, which overhangs Trewyn Houſe, the ſeat of Mr. Roſier, croſſed the road to Longtown at

* Walſingham.—Dugdale, art. Cobham.

at the turnpike, continued along the left bank of the Honddy, which here forms the boundary between the two counties, and croſſed a bridge over the Monnow to Altyrynys, an ancient manſion of the Cecil family, delightfully ſituated at the ſpot where the Monnow and Honddy unite. The ſcenery of this ſequeſtered place is ſingularly picturesque; the two ſtreams are clear and rapid, their banks are feathered with trees, overhanging the water; an avenue of tall pines darkens the back ground of the picture, and the old manſion, which though conſiderably reduced ſtill retains ſigns of former magnificence, is almoſt ſurrounded by the winding Monnow. Altyrynys ſtands on the left bank of that river, in the hundred of Ewyas Harold, Herefordſhire; the oppoſite bank is in Monmouthſhire, and from this ſpot the Monnow continues to be the boundary of the two counties, as far as Perthîr, in the vicinity of Monmouth.

Two miles from Lanvihangel, cloſe to the Herefordſhire road, at the ſeventh mile ſtone from Abergavenny, is Campſton Hill, ſo called from an ancient encampment, where, according to Harris, ſeveral Roman coins were diſcovered; but the ſummit of the hill, which is a level common, is ſo much excavated for ſtone quarries, that no traces of regular entrenchments can be diſcerned. At a ſmall diſtance beyond, on the ſlope of the hill, is a farm called Campſton Houſe, once belonging to a branch of the Prichard family, where Charles the firſt is ſaid to have paſſed the night* in his progreſs through Monmouthſhire, during the civil wars. The apartment in which he ſlept is now uſed for a granary; but the viſit of the royal gueſt is not commemorated by any memorial, and is only known by tradition.

Four miles beyond Campſton Hill, on the right of the road leading from Abergavenny to Hereford, is Langua; according to Tanner Langkywan, or Langwin, the ſite of an alien priory of black monks; a cell to the abbey of Lira in Normandy. On the diſſolution of alien priories, it was annexed to the Carthuſian priory of Shene, in Surry, as parcel thereof, granted, 37 Henry VIII. to John Doyley and John Scudamore, and is now the property of John Scudamore,

* In the Iter Carolum, the king is ſaid to have dined only at Campſton houſe.

more, eſq. of Kentchurch. The ancient houſe has been recently taken down, and a farm built with the materials. The pariſh church is pleaſantly ſituated on the other ſide of the road, in a ſequeſtered vale, at the foot of a ſteep declivity near the banks of the Monnow.

Theſe places are ſcarce worthy of being viſited as objects of curioſity, but deſerve notice, becauſe they afford opportunities of examining this delightful country, abounding in beauties of nature, which aſſume new appearances as they are ſeen in different poſitions. The touriſt ought not to omit traverſing the road from Langua to Campſton Hill; it is a natural terrace, running on a ridge of eminences, and commanding on one ſide the Graig and Garway, and on the other the Black mountains, with a full view of the Sugar Loaf and its dependent hills, and the Skyrrid with its double ſummit.

The laſt excurſion, which I made in this mountainous diſtrict, was to the ſummit of the Gaer. From Lanvihangel I purſued the road to Longtown, which I quitted at the Honddy, and followed that leading to Lanthony, till I paſſed Upper Stanton, when I mounted the ſides of the Gaer, a mountain partly ſituated in Monmouthſhire, and partly in a diſtrict of Herefordſhire called the Fothog, which is wholly inſulated and encircled by the counties of Monmouth and Brecon. I aſcended a ſteep and ſtony road, and in half an hour reached the ſummit of the mountain, which is crowned with an ancient encampment.

The Gaer occupying nearly the center of the great chain, which ſtretches to the north and north-weſt from Abergavenny, beyond the confines of Herefordſhire and Brecknockſhire, the ſituations and forms of the circumjacent mountains are plainly diſtinguiſhed from its ſummit. The firſt of this chain is the Derry, which I have already deſcribed, as riſing from Abergavenny, and which ſkirts the Hereford road for the ſpace of two miles; the northern ſide appears ſprinkled with underwood, and the ſummit is crowned by the Sugar Loaf in all its beauty. To the north of the Derry ſucceeds a bare ruſſet mountain of an oblong form, called the Brynaro *, which turns at the ſcathed elm on the Hereford road, and terminates

* Suppoſed to be derived from Bryn-arw, or the rugged ſummit.

minates at the foot of the Gaer. Oppoſite to the Brynaro, on the eaſtern ſide of the Hereford road, riſes the Great Skyrrid, in all its ruggedneſs, with its forked ſummit eminently conſpicuous. To the north of the Brynaro, and to the north-eaſt of the Skyrrid, extends the long line of the Black mountains, ſeparated from the Gaer by the valley of the Honddy; a dark and gloomy maſs, ſweeping in a ſemicircular direction, and ſpreading in various ramifications. In their inmoſt receſſes appears the deep vale of Ewias, and the ſingular curvature of the dingle, which takes the name of Cwmyoi * from its ſhape, and communicates it to the village, whoſe romantic ſituation in the midſt of broken crags is peculiarly ſtriking. To the weſt of the Black mountains, and to the north-weſt of the Gaer, riſes a ſucceſſion of eminences, briſtling with crags innumerable, ſtretching acroſs Brecknockſhire, and loſt in the diſtant counties of Wales. At the foot of the Gaer, I admired the beautiful vale of Langruny, watered by a lively torrent, and terminating at the north-weſtern extremity of the Derry, from which point the Lanwenarth hills border the vale of the Uſk, and join the Rolben.

Beyond this chain of mountains, which I have thus attempted to diſcriminate, the eye of the ſpectator glances over the fertile parts of Monmouthſhire and Herefordſhire, backed by the diſtant hills in the counties of Worceſter, Gloceſter, and Somerſet, and interſected by the æſtuary of the Severn.

Deſcending from the ſummit, I continued along the Fothog, down the ſide of the Gaer, leaving the church of Patricio, in the county of Brecon, at the diſtance of about a mile on the right, until I reached a ſmith's ſhop, in the vale of Langruny, at the ſide of the torrent called the Great Gruny, where the three counties of Monmouth, Brecknock, and Hereford unite. This ſpot is two miles from Lanvihangel, three from Langruny, and five from Abergavenny, and ſtands at the foot of the Derry, near the old turnpike road, which led through Lanvihangel and Stanton, and paſſed between the Brynaro and the Gaer. This diſtrict was part of the great foreſt of Moyle, or Moel, the liberties of which were granted by Jaſper duke of Bedford, as lord of Abergavenny, to the inhabitants of Landeilo and Lanwenarth, and is ſtill called the foreſt. It was anciently

* Cwmyoi, in Welſh Cwm-jau, ſignifies the Dingle, or Valley of the Yoke.

ciently denominated from the torrent Coed y Gruny, or the wood of the Gruny; and in times of feudal barbariſm, witneſſed the maſſacre of Richard earl of Clare. Having made great conqueſts in different parts of Wales, he was paſſing from his caſtle of Uſk to his territories in Brecknockſhire. Being eſcorted by Brien Fitz Count, lord of Abergavenny, with a conſiderable body of troops, to the ſkirts of the foreſt, he imprudently diſmiſſed his guard, in oppoſition to the repeated remonſtrances of his friendly conductor, and continued his route, with only his uſual attendants, unarmed, and preceded by two minſtrels, who piped and ſung alternately, as if inviting the ſtroke of the aſſaſſin. In a narrow paſs, Jorwerth of Caerleon, and a numerous corps of Welſhmen, ſuddenly ruſhed from the thickets, and ſlew, without reſiſtance, the earl of Clare and his whole ſuite *.

From the vale of Langruny I proceeded along the level road, between the Derry and the Brynaro, through Bettus, a hamlet in the pariſh of Landeilo, which contains a ſmall gothic chapel now in ruins, and entered the Hereford road about two miles from Abergavenny.

* Geraldus Camb. cap. 4.

CHAPTER 24.

Excurſion from Abergavenny to Blaenavon.—Riſe and Progreſs of the Iron Works.—Route through the Valley of Avon Lwyd to Pont y Pool.

IN the courſe of my expeditions I three times viſited the iron works of Blaenavon, recently eſtabliſhed in the vicinity of Abergavenny, which form a new and intereſting object in the tour of Monmouthſhire.

From Abergavenny, in company with ſir Richard Hoare, I paſſed over the ſtone bridge of the Uſk, along the plain between the river and the Blorenge, and went up the ſteep ſides of the mountain, in a hollow way incloſed between high hedges, with occaſional openings, which admit different views of Abergavenny and the circumjacent country. Emerging from the thickets of wood which clothe the lower and middle parts, we aſcended a common, ſtrewed with vaſt maſſes of rock, from whence a dreary moor leads to the ſummit, overlooking the works of Blaenavon, ſituated in the hollow of the mountain, near the ſource of the Avon Lwyd, from which the place derives its appellation.

At ſome diſtance, the works have the appearance of a ſmall town, ſurrounded with heaps of ore, coal, and limeſtone, and enlivened with all the buſtle and activity of an opulent and increaſing eſtabliſhment. The view of the buildings, which are conſtructed in the excavations of the rocks, is extremely pictureſque, and heightened by the volumes of black ſmoke emitted by the furnaces. While my friend ſir Richard Hoare was engaged in ſketching a view of this ſingular ſcene, of which an engraving is annexed, I employed myſelf in examining the mines and works.

This ſpot and its vicinity produce abundance of iron, with coal and limeſtone,

and every article neceſſary for ſmelting the ore: the veins lie in the adjacent rocks, under ſtrata of coal, and are from three and a half to ſeven or eight inches in thickneſs; they differ in richneſs, but yield, upon an average, not leſs than forty-four pounds of pig iron to one hundred weight of ore. The principal part of the iron, after being formed into pigs, is conveyed by means of the rail road and canal to Newport, from whence it is exported.

The ſhafts of the mines are horizontal, penetrating one below the other, and under the coal ſhafts; iron rail roads are conſtructed to convey the coal and ore; which are puſhed as far as the ſhafts are worked, and gradually carried on as the excavations are extended; the longeſt of theſe ſubterraneous paſſages penetrates not leſs than three quarters of a mile. The coal is ſo abundant as not only to ſupply the fuel neceſſary for the works, but large quantities are ſent to Abergavenny, Pont y Pool, and Uſk.

Although theſe works were only finiſhed in 1789, three hundred and fifty men are employed, and the population of the diſtrict exceeds a thouſand ſouls. The hollows of the rocks and ſides of the hills are ſtrewed with numerous habitations, and the heathy grounds converted into fields of corn and paſture. Such are the wonderworking powers of induſtry when directed by judgment!

The want of habitations for the increaſing number of families, has occaſioned an ingenious contrivance: a bridge being thrown acroſs a deep dingle for the ſupport of a rail road leading into a mine, the arches, which are ten in number, have been walled up, and formed into dwellings; the bridge is covered with a penthouſe roof, and backed by perpendicular rocks, in which the mines are excavated. Numerous workmen continually paſs and repaſs, and low cars, laden with coal or iron ore, roll along with their broad and grooved wheels; theſe objects, loſing themſelves under the roof of the bridge, again emerging, and then diſappearing in the ſubterraneous paſſages of the rock, form a ſingular and animated picture, not unlike the moving figures in a camera obſcura.

The mountainous diſtrict which contains theſe mineral treaſures, is held by the earl of Abergavenny, under a leaſe from the crown. It was formerly let to the family of Hanbury, of Pont y Pool, for leſs than £. 100 a year; and as the value

of

Sir Richd Hoare Bar^t del^t W Byrne sculp^t

IRON WORKS AT BLANEAVON

of the mines was not ſufficiently appreciated, no works were conſtructed; but the maſſes of ore found near the ſurface were conveyed to the forges of Pont y Pool. Soon after the expiration of the term, the diſtrict was granted by another leaſe to Hill and company, who began theſe works in 1788, and expended forty thouſand pounds before any return was made; this expence, however, has been amply repaid by the produce.

On conſidering the riſe and rapid progreſs of the iron manufactories in this diſtrict, as well as in the neighbouring mountains of Monmouthſhire and Glamorganſhire, it is a matter of wonder that theſe mineral treaſures ſhould have been ſo long neglected. This wonder will increaſe, when it is known that iron was manufactured in this country at a period beyond the reach of tradition or hiſtory. Large heaps of ſlug or cinder have been repeatedly diſcovered, ſome of which are evidently the product of bloomeries, the moſt ancient method of fuſing iron; in other places are traced the ſites of furnaces long diſuſed, of which no account of their foundation can be collected. The appearance of theſe iron cinders, and the veſtiges of ancient furnaces, indicate that many parts of this mountainous diſtrict, now wholly bare, were formerly covered with large tracts of wood; charcoal being the only ſpecies of fuel originally uſed in the operation of ſmelting, both in the bloomeries and furnaces. This conjecture is corroborated by numerous names, alluding to woods and foreſts, in places which have never been known to produce trees; and is ſtill farther aſcertained by the diſcovery of trunks and branches, with their leaves, under the boggy ſoil in the vicinity of Blaenavon, and on the neighbouring hills.

The lands being cleared, and the foreſts neglected, their deſtruction was haſtened by numerous herds of goats, maintained in theſe mountainous regions; the want of fuel occaſioned the gradual decline of the bloomeries and furnaces, and for a conſiderable period little or no iron was manufactured.

About forty years ago the iron works ſuddenly revived, from the beneficial diſcovery of making pig iron with pit coal, inſtead of charcoal, which was ſoon afterwards followed by the improvement of manufacturing even bar iron by means of pit coal: hence a diſtrict, which contained ſuch extenſive

tenſive mines of ore and coal, prodigious quantities of limeſtone, and numerous ſtreams of water, could not fail of becoming the ſeat of many flouriſhing eſtabliſhments. Beſides theſe local advantages, the progreſs of the manufactories has been powerfully aided by the application of mechanics; particularly by the uſe of the ſteam engine, and the great improvement of water machines; but in no inſtance have they derived more advantage than from the adoption of rollers, inſtead of forge hammers, now uſed for the formation of bar iron, with a degree of diſpatch, as well as exactneſs, before unknown. From this concurrence of circumſtances, the ſucceſs has been no leſs rapid than extraordinary: fifteen years ago the weekly quantity of pig iron made in this part of Monmouthſhire, and in the contiguous diſtrict of Glamorganſhire, did not exceed 60 tons; at preſent it ſcarcely falls ſhort of 600; at that period no bar iron was manufactured; but now the quantity amounts weekly to more than 300 tons. The works are ſtill rapidly increaſing in extent and importance, and appear likely to ſurpaſs the other iron manufactories throughout the kingdom *.

In the vicinity of Blaenavon we obſerved the proceſs of making a rail road, ſo called becauſe it is formed by a kind of frame with iron rails, or bars, laid lengthways, and faſtened or cramped by means of croſs bars. The ground being excavated, about ſix feet in breadth, and two in depth, is ſtrewed over with broken pieces of ſtone, and the frame laid down; it is compoſed of rails, ſleepers, or croſs bars, and under ſleepers. The rail is a bar of caſt iron, four feet in length, three inches thick, and one and a half broad; its extremities are reſpectively concave and convex, or in other words are morticed and tenanted into each other, and faſtened at the ends by two wooden pegs to a croſs bar called the ſleeper. This ſleeper was originally of iron, but experience having ſhewn that iron was liable to ſnap or bend, it is now made of wood, which is conſiderably cheaper, and requires leſs repair. Under each extremity of the ſleeper is a ſquare piece of wood, called the under ſleeper, to which it is attached by a peg. The frame being thus laid down and filled with ſtones, gravel, and earth, the iron rails form a ridge above the ſurface, over which the wheels of the cars glide by means of iron grooved rims three inches and a half broad.

This

* For theſe obſervations I am principally indebted to Mr. Cockſhutt.

This is the general ſtructure of the road when carried in a ſtrait line; at the junction of two roads, and to facilitate the paſſage of two cars in oppoſite directions, moveable rails, called turn rails, are occaſionally uſed, which are faſtened with ſcrews inſtead of pegs, and may be puſhed ſideways.

The level of the ground is taken with great exactneſs, and the declivity is in general ſo gentle as to be almoſt imperceptible *: the road, ſometimes conveyed in a ſtrait line, ſometimes winding round the ſides of precipices, is a pictureſque object, and the cars filled with coals or iron, and gliding along occaſionally without horſes, impreſs the traveller, who is unaccuſtomed to ſuch ſpectacles, with pleaſing aſtoniſhment. The expence of forming theſe roads is very conſiderable, varying according to the nature of the ground, and the difficulty or facility of procuring proper materials; it is ſeldom leſs than a thouſand pounds per mile, and ſometimes exceeds that ſum.

The cars, from the ſolidity of their ſtructure, and the quantity of iron uſed in the axle tree and wheels, when loaded weigh not leſs than three tons and a half; they are drawn by a ſingle horſe, and the driver ſtands on a kind of footboard behind, and can inſtantaneouſly ſtop the car by means of a lever and a drop, which falls between the wheels, and ſuſpends their motion. In places where the declivity is more rapid than uſual, the horſe is taken out, and the car impelled forward by its own weight.

On our return to Abergavenny, I rode to the ſummit, and walked from thence to the turnpike, at the foot of the Blorenge, which I found a much more agreeable way than along the hollow road I had before traverſed. As I deſcended, the views were no leſs pleaſing than diverſified; the principal features of the ſhifting landſcape, were the rich vale watered by the Uſk; the mountains above and round Abergavenny; the town, which here formed a ſweep under the undulating Derry, crowned by the Sugar Loaf, and there appeared ſtanding on a gentle riſe, with its towers and ruined caſtle backed by the majeſtic Skyrrid.

Near a caſtellated farm houſe belonging to Mr. Hanbury Williams, I left the hollow

* The perpendicular fall of the ground is commonly no more than an inch in a yard, and ſcarcely ever more than three inches.

hollow and ſtony road, and croſſed over fields of paſture; I then paſſed through a deep glen, by the ſide of murmuring rills, and loſt ſight of the town, vale, and mountains, which again preſented themſelves to view. This delightful walk at the end of two miles conducted me into the road near the right bank of the Uſk, where I remounted my horſe, and rode ſlowly on, ſtrongly impreſſed with this delightful and ſublime ſcenery.

The pleaſure which we received from this expedition, induced us to make a ſecond excurſion to Blaenavon, but inſtead of returning to Abergavenny, we continued our route down the valley of the Avon Lwyd, on the rail road to Pont y Pool. The road runs through a narrow vale, bounded by ſloping heights, clothed with underwood, and watered by the Avon Lwyd, or Grey river, which from a little rill, is gradually ſwelled with mountain ſtreams into a rapid torrent. The vale is at firſt a deep and narrow glen, wholly occupied by the torrent, but ſoon expands, and becomes cultivated; the right ſide is ſteep, the left gradually ſhelving to the river, and both are richly covered with trees, and hanging thickets of alder, beech, aſh, and oak. The left ſide exhibits a ſucceſſion of neat farm houſes, with ſmall incloſures of corn and paſture, forming receſſes in the wood; theſe little demeſnes are moſtly freeholds. In the whole valley, which is five miles in length, there is ſcarcely a foot of land not cultivated, or overſpread with wood, excepting a ſingle patch of rock and heath, which is finely contraſted with the ſurrounding verdure. Though the ſcene is wild, nothing is rugged or abrupt, except the torrent foaming over its craggy channel, in a hollow abyſs half obſcured by trees.

Approaching Pont y Pool, the vale diminiſhed in breadth, and was cloſed with the rich and wooded eminences of Pont y Pool park. We ſoon reached the commencement of the canal, and after croſſing it over three ſtone bridges, deſcended to the town..

In a ſubſequent excurſion to Blaenavon, which I made from Pont y Pool, I received great marks of hoſpitality and attention from Mr. Hopkins, one of the proprietors, who is conſtructing a comfortable and elegant manſion at the northern extremity of this beautiful vale.

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CHAPTER 25.

Pont y Pool.—Japan Manufacture.—Anecdotes of the Hanbury Family.—Pont y Pool Park and Houſe.—Trevethin Church.

THE town of Pont y Pool is ſingularly placed on the edge of a ſteep cliff, overhanging the Avon Lwyd, and on the ſlope of a declivity under impending hills, partly bare, and partly mantled with wood. The line of the canal is ſeen winding above the town; a rapid torrent, deſcending from a lake at the foot of the Mynydd Maen, flows under the canal, and ruſhing impetuouſly along the outſkirts of the town, precipitates itſelf into the Avon Lwyd, which rolls in an abyſs beneath.

The appellation of Pont y Pool is modern, ſuppoſed to be derived from a bridge thrown over a large pool, which ſupplies water for a forge, but is a corruption of Pont ap Howell or Howell's bridge *.

Pont y Pool is a large ſtraggling place, containing 250 houſes, and 1500 ſouls †. Several neat habitations, and numerous ſhops, preſent an appearance of thriving proſperity, notwithſtanding the duſky aſpect of the town, occaſioned by the adjacent forges. The inhabitants derive great ſupport from the iron works and collieries, and have been recently benefited by the trade of the canal. The place is the principal mart for the natives of the mountainous diſtrict,

* Before the exiſtence of the preſent town, the place contained very few houſes, and was called, from the church, Trevethin. Near the bridge over the Avon Lwyd, was a neat houſe belonging to Davydd ap Howell, the anceſtor of the late Mr. Edmund Davies, who was agent to the Hanbury family. From the vicinity of his reſidence the bridge was called Pont Davydd ap Howell, abbreviated by the Welſh to Pont-ap-Howell, and corrupted to Pont-a-pool and Pont y Pool. From Mr. Evans.

† From the Rev. J. Williams the vicar.

diſtrict, and the weekly market is not the leaſt conſiderable, and the cheapeſt in Monmouthſhire. It was a pleaſing amuſement to mix in theſe crowded meetings, to obſerve the frank and ſimple manners of the hardy mountaineers, and endeavour, in aſking the price of their proviſions, to extort a *Saxon* word from this *Britiſh* progeny. The women were moſtly wrapped in long cloth cloaks of a dark blue or brown colour; all of them wore mob caps neatly plaited over the forehead and ears, and tied above the chin; ſeveral had alſo round felt hats like thoſe worn by the men, or large chip hats covered with black ſilk, and faſtened under the chin. This head-dreſs gives an arch and lively air to the younger part of the ſex, and is not unbecoming.

The town principally owes its foundation and increaſe to the iron works eſtabliſhed by the family of Hanbury; it is likewiſe remarkable for the japan manufacture, known by the name of Pont y Pool ware. In the reign of Charles the ſecond, Thomas Allgood, a native of Northamptonſhire, came to Pont y Pool, and being a man of a projecting genius, made various experiments to extract copperas and oil from coal, and finally invented the method of lackering iron plates with a brilliant varniſh, in the ſame manner as the Japaneſe lackered wood; which was afterwards diſtinguiſhed by the name of Pont y Pool ware. Dying, however, before it was brought to perfection, his ſon Edward, who inherited his father's genius as well as his father's ſecrets, purſued the diſcovery with increaſing ſpirit, made conſiderable improvements, and finally eſtabliſhed a manufactory of japan ware, which was long unrivalled. This manufactory is ſtill carried on by his grandſon William, but on a leſs extenſive ſcale; its decreaſe is principally owing to the riſe of ſimilar eſtabliſhments in other places, and particularly at Uſk, under a branch of the family *.

Edward Allgood was the principal agent of major Hanbury, and aſſiſted him in directing and improving the iron works, particularly the wire manufactory, which was deficient in the method of poliſhing to that eſtabliſhed at Woburn in

* In 1761, Edward Allgood, with one of his brothers, grandſons of the firſt inventor, removed to Uſk, where they eſtabliſhed a japan manufactory, which I have already mentioned. This Edward is ſtill living at Uſk, in the 87th year of his age, and to him, through the medium of Mr. Morgan Davis, an ingenious young man employed in the manufactory, I am indebted for this account of the Allgood family.

in Bedfordſhire. For the purpoſe of diſcovering the ſecret, Edward Allgood repaired to Woburn, in the character of a beggar, and acting the part of a buffoon, gradually obtained acceſs to the workſhops, and was permitted to inſpect the various proceſſes, by which means he acquired the art of making the leys, the principal ingredient for giving a more brilliant poliſh to the iron wire, which was the only deſideratum in the Pont y Pool works.

The ſituation of Pont y Pool, near a region rich in mineral treaſures, in the midſt of forges and collieries, and at the head of the canal, render it peculiarly commodious for the eſtabliſhment of iron manufactories; and perhaps another generation may ſee a new Birmingham ſtart up in the wilds of Monmouthſhire.

Pont y Pool is in the manor of Lantarnam, and the town houſe was erected in 1730 by Mrs. Bray, joint lady of the manor with her ſiſter Miſs Morgan, which is commemorated by an inſcription in Engliſh and Welſh on the front.

The family of Hanbury, to whom the town owes its conſequence and celebrity, have long reſided at Pont y Pool park, in the vicinity; their anceſtors were formerly ſeated at Hanbury hall in Worceſterſhire, from which place they derived their name. According to the red book of the biſhopric of Worceſter, Roger de Hanbury was born there in 1125, and his deſcendant Galfridus, reſided there in the middle of the ſixteenth century. About the year 1500 the poſſeſſor diſinherited his brothers, and left the ſeat, and part of the eſtate to a natural daughter. Richard, the eldeſt, ſettled in London, and is diſtinguiſhed as one of the Goldſmiths' company, (for ſo the bankers were called) in the reign of Henry the ſeventh. His eldeſt ſon, Capel, purchaſed an eſtate at Pont y Pool, and was the firſt founder of the iron works. The earlieſt conveyance deeds are dated 1565, and a regular account of the ſale of iron commences in 1588. Neither he, or any of his immediate deſcendants, were permanently ſeated at Pont y Pool, but poſſeſſed landed property in the pariſh of Kidderminſter, in the county of Worceſter, where they ſeem to have reſided. They occaſionally repaired to Pont y Pool, for the purpoſe of inſpecting the iron works; and the initial letters of John and Richard, the ſon and grandſon

of Capel, together with the family arms *, are carved on the pulpit of the church, with the date of 1637.

Capel, the ſon of Richard, died in 1704, and was buried in the chancel of Kidderminſter church, under a flat ſepulchral ſtone, with this memorial:

" Here was laid the body of Capel Hanbury, eſq. May it reſt as he lived and " died in peace, in the 79th year of his age, 14th January 1704.

" With length of days he met his fate prepar'd,
" No murmurs, not a ſigh or groan was heard;
" That peace that dwelt within his honeſt breaſt,
" Has ſmooth'd his paſſage to eternal reſt."

His eldeſt ſon and heir John, uſually known by the name of major Hanbury, was born in 1664; after receiving a liberal education, and making a conſiderable proficiency in claſſical literature, he choſe the profeſſion of the law. He did not however long purſue his ſtudies in this line: he ſaid one day, to Mr. Jones of Lanarth, " I read Coke upon Littleton, as far as Tenant in Dower; but on the " ſuggeſtion of a friend, that I ſhould gain more advantage from the iron works " of Pont y Pool, than from the profits of the bar, I laid aſide Tenant in Dower, " and turned my attention to mines and forges."

In 1701 he married Albina Selwyn, daughter of John Selwyn, eſq. of Matſon, in the county of Gloceſter, with whom he obtained a conſiderable fortune. With this addition to his own property, he determined ſtill farther to improve the iron works at Pont y Pool, near which place he built a houſe, and fixed his reſidence.

His ſkill and indefatigable application were crowned with conſiderable ſucceſs; he increaſed the produce of the iron works, made many improvements in the machinery, invented the method of rolling iron plates by means of cylinders, and introduced the art of tinning into England.

By the intereſt of his wife's family, he was choſen, in 1701, member for the city of Gloceſter, which he continued to repreſent in the three ſucceeding parliaments. His wife dying without iſſue, he eſpouſed, in 1703, Bridget Ayſcough, eldeſt daughter of ſir Edward Ayſcough, knight, in the county of Lincoln;

* Or, a bend, engrailed, vert, cotiſed ſable.

Harding sc

MAJOR HANBURY

From an Original Picture in the Possession of Capel H. Leigh Esq.r

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coln; ſhe was in high favour with the ducheſs of Marlborough *, and by this connection he acquired the protection of the duke, who honoured him with particular marks of confidence and eſteem.

On the acceſſion of George the firſt, he was choſen, on the independent intereſt, member for the county of Monmouth, which he continued to repreſent until his death. Although no ſpeaker, he diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a man of buſineſs, and was appointed chairman to ſeveral committees. During the reign of Queen Anne, and the early part of the reign of George the firſt, he uniformly voted with the whigs; but on the ſchiſm, which divided that party, he joined the body hoſtile to government, oppoſed the adminiſtration of ſir Robert Walpole, and his name appears among the members who voted againſt the exciſe.

In 1720 he obtained a conſiderable acquiſition of property; Mr. Williams, of Caerleon, who fled from his country for killing Mr. Morgan, of Penros, in a rencontre †, having received, on his return to England, great marks of attention and friendſhip from major Hanbury, ſtood godfather to his ſon Charles, and dying unmarried, bequeathed to him the bulk of his fortune, which exceeded £. 70,000, under the condition of purchaſing eſtates, the proprietor of which ſhould aſſume the name and arms of Williams. In memory of his benefactor, Major Hanbury erected a monument in Weſtminſter abbey, with an elegant inſcription ‡, expreſſive of his regard and gratitude.

Soon after the failure of the South Sea ſcheme, when many of the directors were diſmiſſed, the integrity of his character, and his talents for buſineſs, recommended him to the proprietors, and he was appointed one of the new directors. About the ſame period, he had the honour of being one of the executors of his patron the duke of Marlborough's will. In gratitude for his faithful diſcharge of

* Among the family papers at Pont y Pool, are a few anecdotes of the ducheſs, written by Mrs. Hanbury.

† See p. 96.

‡ Carolus Williams
de Caerleon
In Agro Monmouth Arm.
Obit 29no. Die Augti. Ann. Dom. 1720.
Ætatis ſuæ LXXXVII.
Vir fuit verè Chriſtianus
Eccleſiæ Anglicanæ Fautor Eximius;
Patriæ Amans & Publicæ libertatis Vindex,
Erga Pauperes, præcipuè
Caerleonenſes ſuos.
Piè Liberalis;
In Amicos ſplendidè munificus,
In illum præſertim,
Qui Hoc grato Animo Monumentum
Poſuit
I. H.

of that delicate office, the ducheſs of Marlborough preſented him with an elegant ſervice of plate, and his wife with a valuable ſet of jewels.

Before his death he purchaſed the eſtate of Coldbrook, and ſettled it on his ſon Charles, godſon of Mr. Williams, afterwards well known under the name of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams. He died highly reſpected, beloved, and lamented, in 1734, in the 70th year of his age. He left five ſons; John, who died in 1736 without iſſue; Capel, the anceſtor of the preſent poſſeſſor of Pont y Pool park; Charles; George, who ſucceeded to the eſtate of Coldbrook after the death of Charles; and Thomas, who died in 1778 without iſſue.

The widow of major Hanbury reſided at Pont y Pool until her death in 1741, when Capel inherited the eſtate. On the death of ſir Charles, without iſſue male, Capel had, by his father's will, the option of the Coldbrook eſtate, on the condition of relinquiſhing that of Pont y Pool to his brother George. A compromiſe, however, took place; Capel retained Pont y Pool, with £.23,000, the remainder of the legacy left by Mr. Williams, which had not been expended in the purchaſe of lands, and George ſucceeded to Coldbrook.

Capel, after repreſenting the borough of Leominſter, was ſeveral times knight of the ſhire for the county of Monmouth, and declined the offer of a peerage.

Capel dying in 1765, was ſucceeded by his ſon John, who likewiſe repreſented the county of Monmouth, until the time of his deceaſe in 1784; when the independent intereſt which had hitherto ſupported the family, was, by the minority of his ſon, diverted into another channel.

His eldeſt ſon John Capel, dying in 1795, the ſeat of Pont y Pool park, and the eſtate, were inherited by Capel Hanbury, eſq. the preſent proprietor, who has ſince aſſumed the name of Leigh, in conſequence of the will of the late lord Leigh *, deviſing his property to his next of kin male, bearing the name and arms of Leigh.

I was much indebted to Mr. Leigh, to whom I was introduced by my friend Mr. Greene, for a kind reception at his hoſpitable manſion of Pont y Pool park.

During

* His grandmother, the honourable Jane Tracy, eldeſt daughter of Thomas Charles, fifth lord Viſcount Tracy, was deſcended from Thomas, the firſt lord Leigh, by the female line of his firſt marriage.

During my continuance in this pleaſing abode, I was permitted to inſpect the intereſting correſpondence and papers of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, which highly gratified my curioſity, and have enabled me to throw a conſiderable light on the anecdotes of his life *.

Theſe papers compriſe great part of his official correſpondence during his embaſſies at Dreſden, Berlin, and Peterſburg; and many intereſting letters on the politics of the times, from ſome of his moſt confidential friends, particularly Mr. Fox, lord Cheſterfield, Mr. Rigby, and the late earl of Orford. Among theſe papers is a collection of his poems in manuſcript, particularly the original copy of Iſabella, or the Morning.

The manſion was partly built by major Hanbury towards the latter end of the laſt century, and partly by his ſon Capel; it is a comfortable houſe, but will ſoon be much improved and beautified by the preſent proprietor, in conformity with a judicious plan which is now carrying into execution.

In the poſſeſſion of Mr. Leigh are ſeveral family pictures, not unintereſting. Three portraits of major Hanbury, at different periods; the firſt when he was a young man, in a coat of mail, with his head bare; the ſecond middle aged; the third, in a red cap, in the latter part of his life, from which the engraving annexed to this chapter is taken. The firſt of theſe portraits exhibits a handſome and frank countenance, and the laſt diſplays even in old age an appearance of great ſpirit and vivacity. The head of his ſecond wife, Bridget Ayſcough; a half length of his ſon Capel; two portraits of the honourable Mrs. Hanbury, eldeſt daughter of lord viſcount Tracy, and wife of Capel; a three-quarters, in crayons, of the late John Hanbury, eſq.; another of his wife Mrs. Hanbury, now Mrs. Stoughton, and their three infant ſons. Two portraits of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, one in full dreſs with the ribband and ſtar of the order of the Bath, the ſecond in a plainer habit, repoſing his cheek on one hand, and holding in the other his poem of Iſabella, or the Morning; this picture is well painted, and larger than that at Coldbrook. I noticed alſo a fine whole length portrait of ſir John Hanbury, knight, of Kilmarſh, in Northamptonſhire,

* Chapter 29.

who

who was deſcended from a collateral branch of the Hanburys, ſeated at Benehall*, in the county of Worceſter; he died in 1634, aged 65. A head of an old man in a blue night cap, though indifferently painted, muſt not be paſſed over in ſilence; it is the portrait of Mr. Williams of Caerleon, the friend of major Hanbury, and the great benefactor of the family.

Over the fire-place in the dining room is a painting which repreſents Sarah ducheſs of Marlborough, in a mourning habit, ſitting, with her daughter Anne, afterwards counteſs of Sunderland, clothed in white, and holding a baſket of fruit; Blenheim houſe appears in the back ground; the beautiful countenance of the ducheſs, and the elegant form of the young lady, are eminently conſpicuous. In the ſame apartment are ſeveral others, not undeſerving of notice; John duke of Marlborough, ſitting, with a truncheon in his hand; Frederick the ſecond, king of Pruſſia, a preſent from that monarch to ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, when embaſſador at Berlin; the earl of Strafford, who was beheaded in the reign of Charles the firſt, by Vandyke; Sir Robert Walpole, a copy from Vanloo; and Thomas Winnington, eſq. of Stanford court, Worceſterſhire, the friend of Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, a great ſupporter of the whig intereſt, and an active partiſan of Sir Robert Walpole. He filled the offices of lord of the admiralty and treaſury; was treaſurer of the navy and paymaſter of the forces, and died in 1747.

A connoiſſeur will not fail to admire two charming pictures by Morillo, a preſent from ſir Robert Walpole to Capel Hanbury; they repreſent two groupes of boys, with the nature and ſimplicity which characteriſe the works of that pleaſing maſter. Among ſeveral curious paintings, which Mrs. Leigh brought from Gnoll Caſtle in the county of Glamorgan, the ſeat of her late huſband ſir Robert Humphrey Mackworth, bart. is an Eſculapius, writing, ſaid to be by Vandyke, and a portrait on wood, of a handſome man in black armour, his head uncovered, with a ſcarf tied round his left arm, inſcribed with a motto *n'oblie point*; a battle and a ſiege are repreſented in the back ground. It bears the date of 1575, ætatis 35, and an inſcription, one word of which is illegible "pour ***** et

* Heralds' office, pedigree of the Hanburys of Benehall and Kilmarſh.

et ma patrie." It appears to be the portrait of Robert Dudley earl of Leiceſter, the weak and haughty favourite of queen Eliſabeth.

The manſion is ſingularly ſituated at the extremity of the grounds, a ſmall diſtance from the town, which (though ſeated on the perpendicular cliff, riſing from the oppoſite bank of the Avon) is ſo judiciouſly concealed by plantations of oak, beech, and poplars, that ſcarcely a ſingle houſe is diſcerned. The view is rendered formal by a kitchen garden, which occupies the interval between the front of the houſe and the torrent, and by an artificial terrace, in the ſtyle of the laſt age, not conſonant to the genius of the place. But theſe ſpecimens of falſe taſte will ſoon be removed; a lawn of verdure will gradually ſlope from the houſe to the torrent, and harmoniſe with the native beauties of the ſcenery.

The grounds are pleaſing, wild, and diverſified; a narrow lawn ſtretches from the houſe to the turnpike road at Pont y Moel; the weſtern boundary is the Avon Lwyd, which here ruſhes with its uſual rapidity; the left bank is flat, the right a perpendicular cliff, beyond which towers the bold and bare ſummit of the Mynydd Maen. On the oppoſite ſide of the vale the grounds riſe into abrupt eminences, clothed with hanging groves, and crowned with tufts of wood. The edge of this beautiful valley is ſkirted by a ſucceſſion of ancient oaks, beeches, and Spaniſh cheſnuts, which ſweep the lawn with their pendent and wide ſpreading branches. The upper part of the park is compoſed of gentle undulations ſwelling one above the other, and ſeparated by ſmall dingles; not a veſtige of art appears, no clumps, no avenues, no formal outlines; the whole ſeems moulded and planted by the hand of nature.

In company with Mr. and Mrs. Leigh, I had a pleaſant ride through the park and grounds to the folly, a ſummer houſe built by the late Mr. Hanbury, near the ſouthern extremity of the chain of hills, which ſtretch from Pont y Pool park, and terminate in the Blorenge. From this eminence, the wild and fertile parts of Monmouthſhire, the hills and dales, plains and mountains, are beautifully combined, and enriched with woodlands, which overſpread the country beneath and around to a conſiderable extent. No traveller ſhould quit Monmouthſhire without enjoying this ſingular and almoſt boundleſs proſpect.

The pariſh church of Pont y Pool, called Trevethin, is ſituated on an eminence at the diſtance of a mile from the town; a neat gravel walk aſcends to it through the plantations of Pont y Pool park, which was begun at the expence of Mrs. Evans, daughter of the late curate, and is now maintained by ſubſcription under her ſuperintendence. The church conſiſts of a ſquare tower of ſtone, with white-waſhed battlements, a nave, a north aiſle, and a chancel; it appears to be an ancient ſtructure; the nave being ſeparated from the aiſle, by four low circular arches repoſing on maſſive columns ſcarcely five feet in height. The chancel is divided from the church by a gothic arch, over which is inſcribed "John Hanbury, Charles Rogers, mercer, churchwarden, 1730." On the pulpit I noticed an inſcription in large old characters. "1637, God ſave the king, C. R. 13. J. H. A. H. R. H. A. H." which are the initial letters of John and Richard Hanbury and of their reſpective wives, with the arms of the family rudely carved.

At the eaſtern extremity of the northern aiſle is a ſmall chapel adjoining to the chancel, the cemetery of the Hanbury family. At the upper end is a ſepulchral monument erected by his widow, to the memory of major Hanbury, and ſurmounted by his buſt in marble well executed.

"HERE LIES THE BODY OF JOHN HANBURY, ESQ.
"OF PONT POOLE IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH,
"WHO BY HIS GREAT UNDERSTANDING AND HUMANITY
"MADE THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLACE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RICH AND HAPPY;
"AND THEY WILL TELL THEIR CHILDREN TO LATEST POSTERITY
"THAT HE WAS A WISE AND HONEST MAN.
"HE WAS CHOSEN IN EIGHT PARLIAMENTS,
"AND WAS KNIGHT OF THE SHIRE FOR THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AT
"HIS DECEASE.
"HE WAS APPOINTED BY THE GREAT DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH
"ONE OF HIS EXECUTORS TO HIS LAST WILL.
"HE MARRIED BRIDGET, DAUGHTER OF SIR EDWARD AYSCOUGH, OF
"KELSEY, IN THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN,
"BY WHOM HE LEFT FIVE SONS, JOHN, CAPEL, CHARLES, GEORGE,
"AND THOMAS.
"HE DIED THE 14 DAY OF JUNE 1734 IN THE 70 YEAR OF HIS AGE."

In

In the church yard is an epitaph in verſe which deſerves notice, becauſe it was compoſed by ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, in commemoration of a faithful agent:

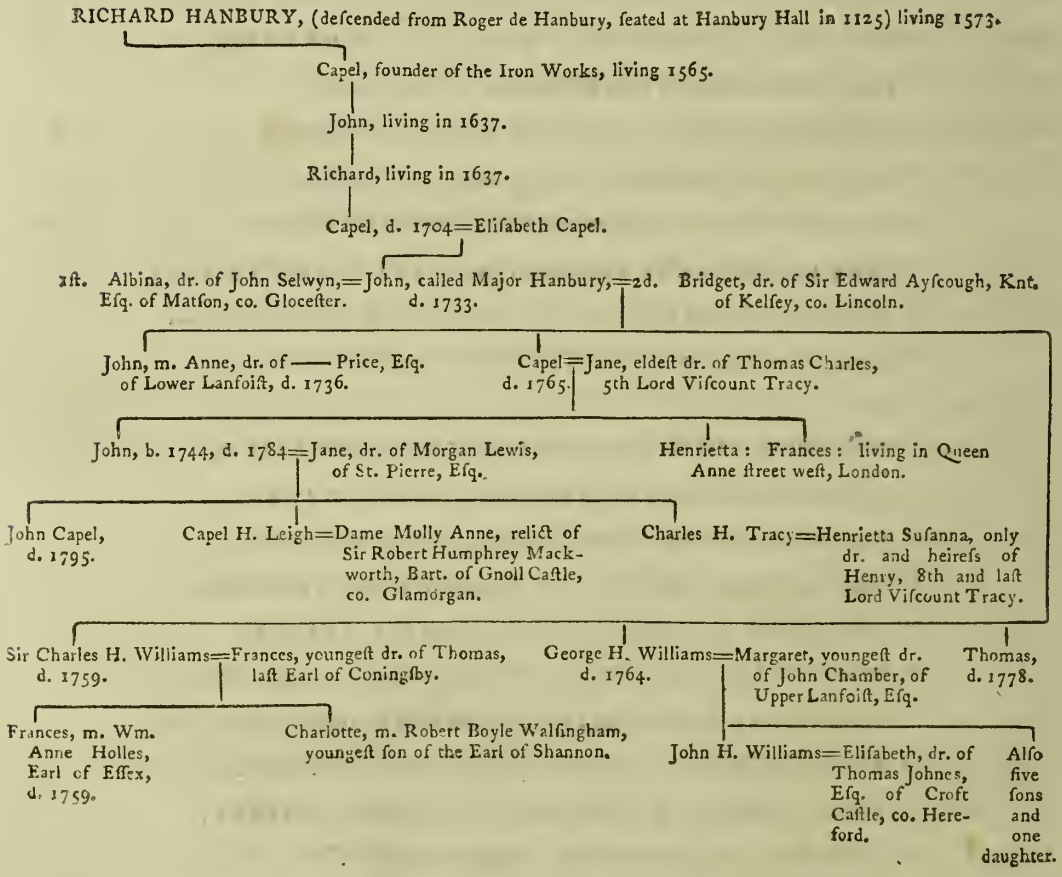
" TO THE MEMORY OF
" MR. THOMAS COOKE,
" AGENT OF THE IRON-WORKS
" TO JOHN HANBURY, ESQ.
" OF PONT Y POOL,
" WHO DIED AUGUST THE 1ST
" 1739: AGED 66 YEARS."

" WITH MOST RELIGIOUS TRUTH, IT MAY BE SAID
" BENEATH THIS STONE AN HONEST MAN LIES DEAD;
" VICE HE ABHORR'D, IN VIRTUE'S PATH HE TROD;
" JUST TO HIS MASTER, HUMBLE TO HIS GOD.
" USEFUL HE LIV'D, AND VOID OF ALL OFFENCE;
" BY NATURE SENSIBLE, WELL BRED BY SENSE;
" HIS MASTER'S INTEREST WAS HIS CONSTANT END;
" (THE FAITHFULL'ST SERVANT, AND THE TRUEST FRIEND)
" FOR HIM HIS HEART AND HAND WERE ALWAYS JOIN'D,
" AND LOVE WITH DUTY STRICTLY WAS COMBIN'D.

" TOGETHER THRO' THIS VALE OF LIFE THEY PASS'D,
" AND IN THIS CHURCH TOGETHER SLEEP AT LAST;
" FOR WHEN THE MASTER'S FATAL HOUR WAS COME,
" THE SERVANT SIGH'D AND FOLLOW'D TO THE TOMB.
" AND WHEN AT THE LAST DAY HE SHALL APPEAR,
" THUS SHALL HIS SAVIOUR SPEAK AND SCATTER FEAR:
" WELL DONE THOU FAITHFUL SERVANT, GOOD AND JUST,
" RECEIVE THY WELL DESERV'D REWARD OF TRUST;
" COME WHERE NO TIME CAN HAPPINESS DESTROY,
" INTO THE FULNESS OF THY MASTER'S JOY."

A proof of the rapid progreſs made by the Engliſh language in this place was imparted to me by the Rev. Mr. Williams, vicar of the pariſh. Since his firſt arrival at Pont y Pool, the ſervice was performed once in Engliſh, and three times in Welſh, and the greater part of the congregation ſcarcely underſtood Engliſh; at preſent the two languages are alternately uſed, and the Engliſh tongue predominates.

PEDIGREE OF THE HANBURY FAMILY.



CHAPTER 26.

Excurſions from Pont y Pool into the Weſtern Parts of Monmouthſhire.—Vallies of the Great and Little Ebwy.—Aberyſtwith.—Nant y glo.—Lanhiddel.—Return to Pont y Pool.

IT is a remarkable circumſtance, that Monmouthſhire, which is the principal paſſage from England to South Wales, and much frequented by travellers for its antiquities and pictureſque beauties, ſhould be ſo little known: the rich and cultivated diſtricts, contiguous to the high roads, have not failed to attract notice; but the remoter parts have been ſeldom viſited and never deſcribed. Under this head may be compriſed the mountainous region, watered by the Avon Lwyd, Ebwy, Sorwy, and Rumney; ſtretching from Pont y Pool to the frontiers of Brecknockſhire and Glamorganſhire, and comprehending nearly one fourth of the county. This region, though rich in minerals, is ſuppoſed to be barren of objects, either intereſting or pictureſque, is therefore called the *Wilds* of Monmouthſhire, and ſeldom traverſed by the gentry, except for the purpoſe of growſe ſhooting. Impreſſed with the general prejudice, I neglected to explore it until my third tour; the populous diſtrict of Croſs pen Main, and the beautiful vales of the Ebwy and Sorwy, ſeen from the top of Twyn Barlwm, firſt arreſted my attention; my curioſity was ſtill further heightened by the aſſurances of Mr. Evans, that I ſhould find ſome Swiſs ſcenes in the Wilds of Monmouthſhire; and though the extreme badneſs of the weather in my laſt expedition ſhortened my ſtay in theſe mountains, I was not diſappointed in my expectations.

I made the firſt excurſion from Pont y Pool park, in company with the Rev. Mr.

Mr. Williams, vicar of Trevethin, who is maſter of the language, and well acquainted with the road. Departing from Pont y Pool, we paſſed along the ſide of the canal to Pont Newynydd, where a copious ſtream burſts from the ground, and after turning a mill, falls into the Avon Lwyd; we then quitted the rail road to Blaenavon, and rode up a ſteep and paved aſcent, which led through thick coppice woods, to the moors. We continued along the level ſurface of the ſummit, over a boggy diſtrict, producing heath and moſs, paſſed ſeveral women gathering various kinds of berries* common to moraſſes, and deſcried at a diſtance a group of ſportſmen who were ſhooting growſe, a ſpecies of game become extremely rare; the heath cock, which was not uncommon in the memory of perſons now living, is at preſent wholly extinct.

At the extremity of this moor we approached the deſcent leading to Cwm Tilery, and I was ſurpriſed with the view of an extenſive diſtrict well peopled, richly wooded, and highly cultivated, almoſt rivalling the fertile counties of England. Slowly deſcending from the dreary heath, we looked down with delight upon numerous vallies which abound with romantic ſcenery, and paſſed ſeveral rills bubbling from the ſides of the hill, and ſwelling the Tilery; beneath us at a diſtance we diſtinguiſhed the Little Ebwy, burſting through a deep, narrow, and woody glen, and only viſible by its foam gliſtening through the thick foliage.

At the bottom of the deſcent we croſſed the Little Ebwy over a ſtone bridge, and rode along a narrow and rugged path, winding round the precipitous ſides of the Beacon mountain, which are thickly clothed with underwood, and occaſionally tufted with hanging groves of oak, beech, aſh, and alder; the wild raſpberry twining in the thickets, and the ground overſpread with the wood ſtrawberry. The rapid torrent beneath was ſometimes half obſcured by the trees, and ſometimes re-appeared to view, as it bounded over its rocky channel, illumined by the rays of a mid-day ſun.

This valley is uſually called, from the torrent, Ebwy vach, or the vale of the Little

* Theſe berries are principally varieties of the Vaccinium, particularly Vaccinium *Myrtillus*, or Whortleberry; V. *Vitis Idea*, Red whorts; V. *Oxycoccos*, Cranberry.

Little Ebwy, but is denominated by the natives, the Valley of the Church; it is bounded on the eaſt by a ridge called Milvre Hill, which ſeparates it from the pariſhes of Lanfoiſt and Trevethin, and on the weſt by the Beacon mountain, which divides it from the valley of the Great Ebwy. At firſt it was extremely narrow, almoſt without a ſingle habitation; the foaming torrent filling the whole ſpace between the mountains. As we proceeded the vale expanded, and numerous farm houſes, with ſmall incloſures of corn and paſture, occupied the ſlopes of the eminences, and ſpread into the narrow plain on each ſide of the river; the whitened walls, and brown ſtone roofs of theſe detached dwellings, gave an air of neatneſs and gaiety to the ſurrounding landſcape.

Towards the extremity of the vale, we croſſed the Little Ebwy, over another ſtone bridge, to the church, which is beautifully ſituated in the midſt of fields, upon a gentle riſe overhanging the torrent. In our way we paſſed the Iſtwyth, a lively rill, which deſcends from a wooded dingle, and in a few paces falls into the Little Ebwy: this ſtream gives the name of Aberyſtwith to the ſcattered village, which is likewiſe called Blaenau Gwent, or the extremity of Gwentland.

The church is a handſome gothic building, with a ſquare tower, and is peculiarly ſtriking from its ſequeſtered ſituation and ſingular appearance; the outſide of the body and chancel, with the lower part of the tower, and its battlements, are whitened; the remaining part of the tower is of hewn ſtone uncoloured. The inſide conſiſts of a nave and a northern aiſle, ſeparated by five pointed arches on octagon piers. On the wall of the aiſle is a ſepulchral tablet, erected "to the memory of the late pious and reverend Morgan Jones, who died in 1771, in the 55th year of his age," with ſome rhapſodical verſes, ſavouring more of methodiſm than poetry:

"Salvation was his ſong,
"Free grace his only theme;
"He fled this meſheth howling vale;
"His eyes behold the gleam."

As there is no chancel, the communion table is placed in a ſmall receſs, at the extremity of the nave; over it is a whimſical group carved in wood, and painted;

two

two angels are repreſented, ſounding brazen trumpets, and between them a clergyman in his robes, holding an enormous trumpet in his hand, as if fatigued with blowing.

Near it is a wooden tablet, erected by a carpenter to the memory of his mother, wife of the Rev. Richard Edwards of this pariſh, with an inſcription written by himſelf, which I copied for its affecting ſimplicity.

"As virtues aſcribed to the dead
Are often perverted to flatter the
Living, yet juſtice demands this truth,
That the deceaſed was a ſincere friend,
An affectionate ſiſter, a moſt indul-
gent and tender parent: To whoſe
Memory this is erected, by her ſon John, as a ſmall teſtimony of his
Gratitude and eſteem.
Thou ſacred ſpirit! that ſo ſudden fled
From our abodes to mingle with the dead;
Of love and duty this ſad pledge receive;
'Tis all I can, and all a ſon can give."

In this church the ſervice is always performed in Welſh, and the Engliſh language is ſo little underſtood, that without the aſſiſtance of Mr. Williams the clerk would ſcarcely have comprehended my queſtions, or returned intelligible anſwers. The church yard contains eleven old yew trees, planted in the form of a ſquare along its four ſides, and incloſing the church in the middle; the largeſt was twenty-four feet in circumference, the ſmalleſt eleven and a half. As we were employed in meaſuring the trees, ſeveral of the natives crowded round us, without coats or waiſtcoats, ſome with red, and others with white flannel ſhirts; a mode of dreſs which perſons deſirous of magnifying common incidents into extraordinary circumſtances, affect to derive from the Romans.

By means of Mr. Williams, I enquired of a man in a red ſhirt, his reaſon for preferring that colour to white, and flannel to linen? he replied "it is warm and comfortable, prevents colds, and can be worn longer without waſhing." This

cuſtom of wearing flannel under-garments, is well adapted to mountainous regions, where the change of weather is frequently ſudden, and is particularly advantageous to labourers, and thoſe who work in the mines and forges, provided due attention is paid to cleanlineſs.

In deſcribing Aberyſtwith, I ought not, perhaps, to omit mentioning a ſingular publication which is pompouſly ſtyled, " A Geographical, Hiſtorical, and " Religious Account of the Pariſh of Aberyſtruth, in the County of Monmouth. " To which are added, Memoirs of ſeveral Perſons of note, who lived in the ſaid " Pariſh; by Edmund Jones;" printed in 1779. The author was a native of Aberyſtwith, and miniſter of a congregation of independants. His book contains a ſhort but clear topographical deſcription of the valleys of the two Ebwys, and of the Tilery; the ſtate of the independant congregations; a few biographical notices of ſome *gifted* perſons, and of his father and mother, and others who were " *converted unto God*;" he ſpeaks of his own converſion, and boaſts, with affected humility, of his own " *inſtrumentality**" in the revival of religion. But the moſt curious part of this ſingular work, is a rhapſody " *on the* " *apparition of fairies and other ſpirits of hell*," like a company of children, with muſic and dancing. He aſſerts, that they frequented the pariſh of Aberyſtwith, as much or more than any pariſh of Wales, and were particularly fond of Havodavel and Kevenbach, becauſe they were dry, lightſome, and pleaſant places, where they were often ſeen leaping, and making a waving path in the air. He ſeriouſly warns his countrymen not to think them happy ſpirits, becauſe they delight in muſic and dancing, or becauſe they are called in Monmouthſhire, " *Mothers' bleſſing, and Fair folks of the wood.*" He narrates ſeveral childiſh ſtories of people who heard them ſing, but could never learn the tune; who heard them talk, but could ſeldom diſtinguiſh the words; of many who were tormented and wounded by them, and of others who were tranſported through the air. He alſo gives an inſtance † of their apparition from his own experience, and enumerates

* " Another congregation was raiſed up in the " valley of the church, by the inſtrumentality of " unworthy me, in 1764, at Pen yr Llwin houſe, " where I was born."

† " If any think I am too credulous in theſe rela- " tions, and ſpeak of things of which I myſelf have " had no experience, I muſt let them know they are " miſtaken; for when a very young boy, going with " my

rates the names of ſome who profeſſed to cure the wounds inflicted by theſe hob-goblins. This whimſical publication would have been unworthy of notice, did it not ſhew the tendency of the people * in theſe mountainous and ſequeſtered regions, to credit ſuperſtitious tales, which formed the popular creed of our forefathers, and gave riſe to ſo much beautiful imagery in the effuſions of our beſt poets.

Quitting theſe haunts,

" Of goblins, wood-gods, fairies, elfs, or fiends †;

we aſcended the northern extremity of this delightful vale, and gradually advanced into a wild, dreary, and almoſt uninhabited diſtrict, among bleak hills and barren moors. From the top of the riſe we looked down on the works of Nant y glo, which once gave activity and life to this ſolitary region. In our deſcent we croſſed a ſmall but rapid ſtream, derived from the contiguous hills of Brecknockſhire, which forcing its way through a deep channel worn in the rocks, falls into the Little Ebwy, and gives to the place the appellation of Nant y glo, or the Cold Brook.

We called upon Mr. Hertford, ſon of one of the proprietors, whom I had caſually met at Pont y Pool, and who is ſettled with his family in this ſequeſtered ſpot. After refreſhing ourſelves with a hearty meal at his hoſpitable board, which

" my aunt, Elizabeth Roger, my mother's ſiſter, in " the day time, ſomewhat early in the morning, but " after ſun riſing, from Havodavel towards my fa- " ther's houſe, at Pen y Llwyn, at the end of the " upper field of Kae yr Keven, by the way-ſide " which we were paſſing, I ſaw the likeneſs of a " ſheepfold with the door towards the ſouth, and " over the door, inſtead of a lintel, the reſemblance " of a dried branch of a tree, I think of a hazel tree; " and within the fold a company of many people; " ſome ſitting down, and ſome going in and coming " out, bowing their heads as they paſſed under the " branch. It ſeemed to me as if they had been lately " dancing, and that there was a muſician among " them. Among the reſt, over againſt the door, I " well remember the reſemblance of a fair woman " with a high crown hat, and a red jacket, who " made a better appearance than the reſt, and whom I " think they ſeemed to honour: I have ſtill a pretty " clear idea of her white face and well formed counte- " nance. The men wore white cravats; and I always " think they were the perfect reſemblance of perſons " who lived in the world before my time; for there " is a reſemblance of their form and countenances " ſtill remaining in my mind." p. 75, 76.

* This belief muſt be very general in theſe parts, if half of what the author ſays is true. " I alſo rea- " ſonably apprehend that a well atteſted relation of " apparitions and agencies of ſpirits in the world, is " a great means to prevent the capital infidelities of " Atheiſm and Sadduciſm, which get much ground " in ſome countries; *for in Wales, where ſuch things* " *have often happened, and ſometimes ſtill do in ſome* " *places, tho' but ſeldom now, we ſcarce meet with any* " *who queſtion the being and apparition of ſpirits.*" p. 83.

† Faithful Shepherdeſs.

which the keenneſs of the mountain air, and a long ride from Pont y Pool, made us doubly reliſh, he kindly accompanied us to the works, conſiſting of two furnaces, ſeveral forges, a ſteam engine, and the neceſſary buildings and machinery for ſmelting and forging the iron ore, which abounds in the vicinity. They belong to Hill, Hertford, and company, and are held under a long leaſe from the owners of the Blaenavon works; they were finiſhed at a vaſt expence, in 1795; after being worked a year, were diſcontinued on account of a miſunderſtanding between the proprietors, and are haſtening to decay. A long range of ſtone cottages, built againſt the ſide of a rock, was conſtructed for the workmen; each cottage conſiſts of two ſtories, which form two tenements, without communication; the entrance to the lower part is in front, and the doors of the upper tenements open to a ledge behind, which is cut in the rock, and runs the whole length of the range. The diſcontinuance of the works impreſſed me with much regret, as they had already given a new life and ſpirit to theſe dreary regions, and would ſoon have fertiliſed the ſurrounding diſtrict. The reſidence, however, of Mr. Hertford, is attended with conſiderable advantage: the adjacent grounds have been cleared and cultivated, and an extenſive tract of moor, which formerly produced only heath and fern, has been converted into paſture, and yields excellent hay.

After thanking Mr. Hertford for his kind attention, we croſſed an elevated tract of moor, and paſſed round the northern extremity of a mountain, under a tumulus which crowns its ſummit, and is called the Beacon by the natives. The Beacon mountain, ſometimes called the Blaenau hill, is a narrow and elevated ridge, which ſtretches between the two branches of the Ebwy, and terminates near the point of their junction. The road which we had traverſed from Cwm Tilery to Nant y Glo, runs along the eaſtern ſide of the ridge, and that which we now entered near the iron works of Hertford, Partridge, and Company, paſſes under its weſtern ſide, through the vale of the Great Ebwy.

In a general deſcription this vale would appear ſimilar to that of the Little Ebwy; it is bounded by ranges of hills feathered with trees, and traverſed by a mountain torrent. Yet nature always preſents a different aſpect, and from rocsk,

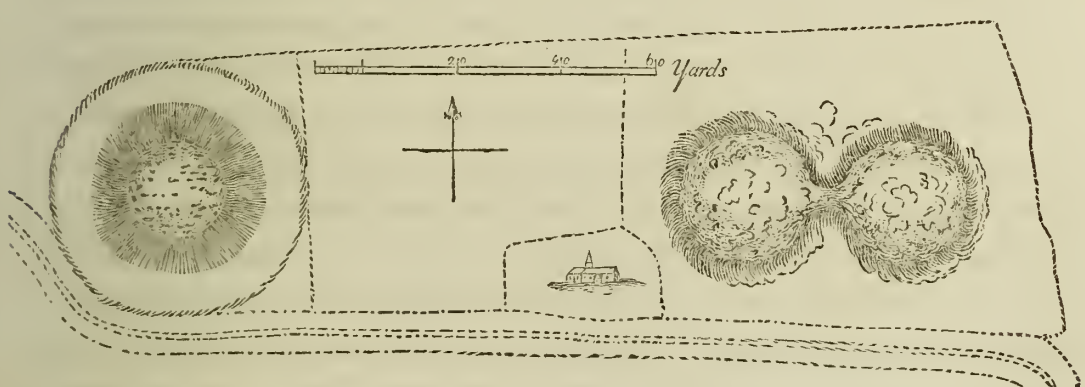
woods, and waters, forms endleſs combinations, which though ſimilar in deſcription, are varied in appearance. The ſcenery here is wilder, and more romantic, the plain narrower, the acclivities ſteeper, the torrent more rapid and confined, the woods more gloomy and impervious; the ſtreams pour through the glens, and ruſh down the hills in greater abundance, and there are fewer habitations. A change has alſo introduced a ſtriking difference: in the other vale, the path, continually aſcending and deſcending, ran along the rugged ſides of the Beacon mountain; here the way is a rail road carried over an artificial terrace, in a waving line near the edge of the banks overhanging the torrent. This way, though eaſy for travellers, and ſtriking from its curvilinear direction, appears uniform in compariſon with the rugged tracks worn in the other valley.

We continued along the road above five miles, and paſſed on our left two beautiful cwms or glens, opening on the weſtern ſide of the Beacon mountain, and watered by tranſparent rills, which fall into the Great Ebwy. The firſt called Cwm Mythve, from the little ſtream Mythve, is about a mile in length, and contains a few cottages and fields of paſture on its ſloping declivities in the midſt of ſurrounding thickets; the other, denominated Cwm Beeg, from the ſtream which daſhes through it, is ſhort, ſteep, and woody. A neat farm houſe, called Aberbeeg, ſtands in a romantic poſition at the extremity of this glen, at the point where the foaming waters of the torrent ruſh into the Great Ebwy. A little beyond the vale terminates, and the two branches of the Ebwy unite; a pictureſque ſcene, which I had neither time nor inclination to examine: the weather, which had hitherto favoured us, changed to rain, the evening approached, and we had ſtill a journey of ſeveral miles over the moors to Pont y Pool. I could only obſerve, as we mounted a ſteep aſcent to Lanhiddel, a narrow plain of rich meadows, divided into ſmall farms ſtretching on each ſide of the rapid Ebwy, and bounded by abrupt and wooded declivities.

At Lanhiddel we baited our horſes at a public houſe, and ſtrolled, in the midſt of a violent ſhower, to the church, which is ſituated on the ſummit; it is a ſmall

but ancient gothic building, conſtructed in the moſt ſimple form, without a tower or belfry, the bells being placed under the roof, and the ropes deſcending into the church. The church yard is planted with twelve old yew trees, which ſurround the church, and add to the ſolemnity of the ſcene: it is dedicated to St. Ithel, with whoſe merits and genealogy I am wholly unacquainted.

On the north-weſtern ſide of the church are the remains of a fortified poſt, conſiſting of a ſmall tumulus and circular entrenchment, which communicated with each other; within the latter are veſtiges of ſubterraneous walls, faced with hewn ſtone, and not leſs than nine feet thick; at a little diſtance to the weſt is a higher mound or barrow. Theſe are the remains of an ancient fortreſs, called Caſtell Taliurum by the natives, who could not explain the meaning, but ſaid it was neither Welſh nor Engliſh. Theſe words are ſuppoſed to be a corruption of Caſtrum Italorum; I have not been able to diſcover any traces of its founders or proprietors, yet the name has led ſanguine admirers of claſſic antiquity, to aſcribe its conſtruction to the Romans. According to the plan annexed, theſe remains do not bear a Roman character, but were probably erected by the Britons, and afterwards occupied and ſtrengthened by the Norman conquerors of Gwent.



We left Lanhiddel as the day was haſtening to its cloſe, and rode over the moors, expoſed to the pitileſs ſhower, with juſt light ſufficient to enable my companion

panion to ſteer his courſe through an uncertain and doubtful track. We fortunately reached the extremity of the common before it was quite dark, and deſcended to Pont y Pool, over the ridge of the Keven y Krîb, down a craggy path, which was rendered extremely ſlippery by the drenching rain. I was delighted on regaining at nine o'clock in the evening my comfortable quarters at Pont y Pool park, after a journey of fourteen hours.

CHAPTER 27.

Excurſion from Pont y Pool to Crumlin Bridge and Riſca.—Junction of the Great and Little Ebwy.—Valley of the Ebwy.—Newbridge.—Abercarn.—Riſca.—Excurſion from Riſca to Penllwyn.—Bydwellty.—Croſs Pen Main.

IN conſequence of the ſatisfaction I experienced in the expedition to Aberyſtwith, I waited with ſome impatience till the weather appeared ſufficiently ſettled, to continue my tour in the mountains. For ſeveral days it rained without intermiſſion, and I was apprehenſive that I ſhould quit the country without gratifying my curioſity. Fortunately the rain at length ſubſided, and I rode from Pont y Pool park, with a guide, procured by Mr. King, the civil and intelligent landlord of the red lion, who was formerly gamekeeper to lord Pembroke. I paſſed the town of Pont y Pool, croſſed the canal, and aſcended by the ſide of an impetuous and turbid torrent, along a rail road leading to ſome valuable iron works belonging to Mr. Leigh, ſituated in the midſt of a wood. I reached the ſummit of the aſcent at the extremity of a ſmall lake, forming the reſervoir of the canal, from which the torrent iſſues, and falls down the ſides of the ſteep in a ſucceſſion of cataracts; this lake is of an oblong ſhape, about two miles in circumference, and ſtretches along the foot of the north-eaſtern extremity of Mynydd Maen, which here terminates in an abrupt precipice; the upper part bare, heathy, and intermixed with crags; the middle and lower parts covered with trees, which overhang the tranſparent ſurface of the water. As I paſſed cloſe to its edge, I obſerved numerous trees ſtanding upright under the water, which had been partly covered by the increaſe of the reſervoir, and partly overflowed by the continual rains which prevailed in the ſummer of 1799.

A road

A road ſufficiently broad for carriages runs along a narrow and level defile between the Mynydd Maen and Keven y Krîb, amid wild and romantic ſcenery, enlivened by ripling ſtreams, which guſh from the ſides of the eminences, and flow towards the lake. Two miles from the entrance of the defile, the bleak mountain of Mynydd Maen trends to the ſouth, and is ſucceeded by a range of lower, but more fertile and wooded hills, broken by narrow dingles. In this ſequeſtered route we paſſed only a a ſingle cottage, until we aſcended a gentle riſe, and came to a ſecond reſervoir, which ſupplies the Crumlin branch of the canal; it is more uſeful than pictureſque, being an artificial piece of water, bounded by a ſquare embankment. Deſcending from the brow of this riſing ground, we croſſed a torrent, and followed the courſe of the ſtream, which iſſues from the reſervoir, down a gentle declivity, through meadows and corn fields, to Crumlin bridge, where the ſecond branch of the canal commences.

As the weather was delightful, and I had ample leiſure, I here left the guide, and rode along the valley to the junction of the two Ebwys, which I did not examine in my laſt excurſion. The ſcenery at the junction is moſt delightful; on one ſide the Great Ebwy ruſhes through the vale which I traverſed in my laſt excurſion; on the other the Little Ebwy, foaming through a hollow and narrow glen, emerges from a thick wood; theſe two branches daſh round the ſouthern extremity of the Beacon mountain, and unite at its foot.

Two ſtone bridges are thrown over the Little Ebwy, within a few paces of each other; one ſupports the rail road, the other was the common paſs before its conſtruction. I croſſed the latter, near which ſtands a ſtone cottage with a group of trees overhanging its roof, and walked through a grove of alders to another bridge over the Great Ebwy, from whence a path leads up the woody ſide of the mountain which bounds the valley. I remained for a conſiderable time leaning on the parapet of the bridge, abſorbed in contemplation of the pictureſque objects around me; objects that recalled to my recollection the milder caſt of mountain ſcenery, which I formerly ſo much admired in the

the Alps of Switzerland, and drew a tear of ſympathy and regret for the fate of that once happy and delightful country *.

Slowly returning to the junction, I purſued my courſe along the banks of the Ebwy, which rolls on with an accumulated body of waters, and following the ſhape of the hills, bends in a gentle curve, as they project or recede. The vale is alternately expanded and contracted, and forms a ſucceſſion of oval plains; in ſome places it is wholly occupied by the torrent, and by the rail road running under precipitous rocks; in others it ſpreads into fields of corn and paſture, amidſt the variety and wildneſs of foreſt ſcenery. At the extremity of the vale I reached the canal, and paſſing on to Crumlin bridge, rejoined the guide, who was impatiently watching for my return.

From Crumlin bridge, I continued along the ſide of the canal to Riſca, and was as much pleaſed with the ſingularity of the views in this route, as I was affected with the romantic ſcenery in the ſequeſtered vale I had juſt quitted. The road over which I paſſed is the towing path, carried along a narrow ridge on the edge of the canal, and at the top of an elevated embankment. On the left, the canal winds at the foot of overhanging rocks, fringed with wood; below the Ebwy is ſeen from the elevation of forty or fifty feet, here pent up in a narrow gulph, there ſpreading its devaſtations in a wider channel: the contraſt between the tranquil waters of the canal, and the rapid eddies of the torrent, burſting through groves of alder and foaming over fragments of rock, is peculiarly ſtriking.

At Newbridge, ſo called from a bridge which croſſes the Ebwy, large quantities of coal are brought down a rail road, from the mines of Mynydd Yſlwyn, and conveyed by the canal to Newport. Between Newbridge and Riſca, numerous houſes, mills, forges, and hamlets, are ſcattered on the ſide of the canal, and on the banks of the Ebwy, and the whole valley becomes a ſcene of buſtle and activity.

I paſſed on the left not leſs than four of thoſe wooded glens which are frequent in theſe parts; they are called Cwms by the natives, and give a pleaſing diverſity

* Written in Auguſt, 1799.

diverſity to the uniform range of hills; rapid torrents ruſh down their hollows, and after ſupplying the canal, pour their ſuperfluous waters into the Ebwy; one of theſe, called Carn, which deſcends from Mynydd Maen, gives the name of Abercarn to the place where the principal iron works are ſituated. On the right the mountains are leſs broken with dingles; their lower parts are covered with underwood, and their heathy tops overhang and darken the torrent.

About two miles from Abercarn deſcending from the canal, I entered the ſtony road leading through the vale, which here expands to the breadth of half a mile, and is rich in wood, paſture, and corn.

In my way to Riſca, I croſſed a bridge over a rail road, lately formed by Mr. Edward Jones, who rents under Mr. Morgan of Ruperra ſome mines of lead, calamine, and coal, in Machen Hill, on the oppoſite ſide of the Ebwy. The expedition and ſecurity with which the cars are conveyed up and down the ſteep ſide of the precipice, appear ſingular to a ſpectator on the bridge. Two parallel rail roads are carried from the canal to the oppoſite ſide of the Ebwy, along which two cars are drawn up and let down at the ſame time, by means of an engine; they appear to paſs each other alternately, like buckets in a well; a boy deſcends with the empty car, nearly midway, and after adjuſting the machinery is again drawn up with the loaded car, which empties the coals into the boats of the canal.

Following the courſe of the Ebwy at a little diſtance from its banks, where it loſes itſelf in an abyſs of trees, and flows under the ſteep ſides of Machen Hill, heard but not ſeen, I reached Riſca, a village ſituated at the extremity of the vale, and under the precipitous crags of Twyn Barlwm. Having taken ſome refreſhment at a public houſe, and diſmiſſed the guide, I continued my journey to Caerau, where I did not arrive till late in the evening.

Anxious to complete my tour in the mountains, I quitted Caerau early next morning, in company with Mr. Evans, and returned to Riſca. Having breakfaſted, we mounted our horſes, rode along the vale, and croſſed the Ebwy near the influx of the Sorwy, over Pont y Cymmer; where I obſerved recent traces

 of

of the terrible ravages occaſioned by the inundation of the torrent. Soon afterwards we aſcended the ſide of the hill, which bounds the vale, and continued along an elevated ridge, through thickets, corn fields, and meadows, ſprinkled with hamlets, watered by numerous torrents, and overlooking the Sorwy. The features of this vale are more wild and romantic than thoſe of the Ebwy; it is narrower and deeper; and the ſhelving declivities, laid out in meadows, ſtretch to the edge of the torrent, which roars in a profound abyſs, obſcured by overhanging trees. We paſſed under Caerllwyn, or the high place of the encampment, deſcended to the banks of the Sorwy, croſſed over a ſtone bridge, and went up a ſteep road, leading to Penllwyn, where we enjoyed a pleaſing view of the vale, which ſeemed to ſtretch in a ſemicircular direction.

Penllwyn Houſe, the ancient manſion of a collateral branch of the Morgan family, is delightfully ſituated on the brow of the eminence overhanging the Sorwy, in the midſt of arable and paſture grounds, which deſcend to the banks of the Rumney. The laſt male of this line was Henry Morgan, who died without iſſue in 1757. From his popularity and influence in theſe parts, he was called the king of the hills; and in a conteſted election has been known to pour down with a numerous body of voters, with whom theſe diſtricts were peopled. His name is ſtill mentioned with endearment, by thoſe who experienced his hoſpitality and benevolence, and their deſcendants are taught to revere his memory. On his death his ſiſter Florence conveyed the eſtate to her huſband John Jones, eſq. of Lanarth, and it now belongs to their grandſon.

The manſion is now a farm houſe, and contains few traces of its former occupiers, except two paintings; one repreſents a whole length figure of a man in a buff jacket, with a ſword pendent from a ſaſh acroſs his ſhoulders, holding a ſpear in his right hand; his head bare, and hair flowing, in the coſtume of the age of Charles the firſt; a boy with a beautiful countenance, in a red dreſs, is delivering to him his helmet; both have large boots and gilt ſpurs. The other picture repreſents a lady in a black hood and gown, with ſlaſhed ſleeves, ſitting; near her is the figure of the ſame boy, holding a ſpear in one hand, and her gloves

in the other. They are the portraits of a Mr. Morgan and his wife; he was of the Lantarnam family, and ſettled at Penros; the boy is their ſon, who was unfortunately killed by Mr. Williams of Caerleon. His only daughter married Edmund Morgan of Penllwyn; the father of Henry and Florence. Theſe pictures ſeem to be of the age and ſtyle of Dobſon, and are in good preſervation. The venerable appearance of this old manſion is much heightened by the ſhade of ſome tall and ſpreading ſycamores, which ſeem coeval with the building.

From Penllwyn, we walked acroſs ſome pleaſant meadows to Bydwellty place, a ſeat likewiſe belonging to that collateral branch of the Morgan family which was ſettled at Caerleon; to whoſe deſcendant, Miſs Morgan, it now belongs. It is alſo converted into a farm houſe; and exhibits remains of former ſplendor and antiquity, in ſeveral gothic arches and doorways.

In viſiting the farm houſes, as well in the hilly diſtricts as in other parts of Monmouthſhire, I was ſtruck with the enormous quantity of bacon with which they are ſtored, frequently obſerving ſeveral ranges of flitches ſuſpended from the cieling of the kitchen. Bacon is almoſt the only meat ſerved at the tables of the farmers, and with vegetables and the productions of the dairy, forms their diet. Thin oat cakes are a common ſubſtitute for bread, and the repaſts are enlivened by the cwrw, their national liquor, which the claſſic writers have dignified with the name of cerevitia, and which is immortalized in the ſongs of the bards; to deſcend to common language, it is new ale in a turbid ſtate, before it is clarified by fermentation. To perſons accuſtomed to clear and old malt liquor, this beverage is extremely forbidding to the ſight, and nauſeous to the taſte; but I had ſo much of the blood of the ancient Britons in my veins, that I ſoon became accuſtomed to their cwrw, and preferred it to our *Saxon* beer.

The principal articles of diet among the labourers, are oat cakes, potatoes, milk, and cheeſe, with an inferior ſpecies of cwrw. Almoſt every cottage is provided with a ſmall garden, and the greater part are even enabled to keep a cow, which ranges the commons for ſubſiſtence. The comforts of the cottager are increaſed by the abundance of fuel, either of coal or wood, which prevails in every part of the country; and the price of labour being the ſame as in moſt of the counties in England,

England, with theſe additional comforts, the condition of the peaſantry in Monmouthſhire is very advantageous.

It is impoſſible to travel in Monmouthſhire without being ſtruck with the appearance of neatneſs and cheerfulneſs, which reſults from the cuſtom of white-waſhing the houſes; on account of the abundance of lime, this operation is annually performed, both within and without, and greatly contributes to the health of the inhabitants. The white colour of theſe dwellings, ſcattered along the ſummits and ſides of the hills, and ſurrounded with foliage of different hues, conſiderably heightens the pictureſque effect of the diverſified landſcapes.

From Bydwellty place we walked through the fields, till we remounted our horſes, and continued along a ſtrait broad road, which was in many parts pitched or paved with large flag ſtones, and exhibited occaſional veſtiges of an ancient cauſeway. In one of the introductory chapters I have fully deſcribed its appearance, and given the reaſons which induced me to believe that it was the ſite of a Roman way; it led us along the level ſummit of the mountain to Bydwellty church, ſituated on an eminence overlooking a fruitful expanſe of hill and dale, in the counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, and Brecknock, which comprehends the rich vale of Carno; the diſtricts fertiliſed by the Rumney; the romantic vallies of the Ebwy and Sorwy; and the whole of the beautiful and undulating country I viſited in theſe excurſions. This varied and extenſive view ſtruck me with no leſs admiration than ſurpriſe; and I did not omit to expreſs my thanks to Mr. Evans for the pleaſure which I had derived from the wilds of Monmouthſhire. The church of Bydwellty is a gothic ſtructure of ſome antiquity; the ſquare embattled tower is built with brown rubble, and coigned with hewn ſtone; the battlements as well as the body are white-waſhed. The inſide conſiſts of a nave, a north aiſle, and chancel; the nave and chancel are ſeparated from the north aiſle by a range of low pointed arches, repoſing on maſſive columns, the ſhafts two feet eight inches in diameter, and not more than three feet and a half in height. It is dedicated to St. Sannan, another Welſh ſaint, of whoſe lineage and merits I am ignorant, and is, with Bedwas, held in commendam by the ſee of Landaff. The church yard is ſurrounded

rounded with veſtiges of ancient entrenchments, but are ſo much effaced by the plough, that their exact form cannot be aſcertained.

A lane winds down the ſteep ſides of a rugged declivity to the banks of the Sorwy, where a bold ſtone bridge of a ſingle arch is thrown over its rocky channel. The view from the bridge is peculiarly wild; the glen diminiſhed to a hollow between lofty and ſteep eminences covered with foreſts, is wholly occupied by the impetuous torrent. In this ſolitary ſpot, a peaſant has fixed his cottage, and cleared a ſmall piece of paſture ground on the edge of the river. From the bridge we mounted the oppoſite eminence, and paſſed through the diſtrict of Croſs pen Main, which exhibits a ſucceſſion of farms and cottages, ſometimes detached and ſometimes in ſmall groups. The greater part of the inhabitants are freeholders, and their dwellings diſplay an appearance of comfort and independence which is highly pleaſing. In the midſt of the hamlet is a ſmall but neat public houſe, where ſportſmen, who frequent theſe mountains for growſe ſhooting, are accommodated for the night. About half a mile farther, the road divides, near the brow of the eminence overlooking the Ebwy; Mr. Evans followed the branch leading by Newbridge to Riſca, and I deſcended a ſteep road, covered with looſe ſtones like the bed of a torrent, towards Crumlin bridge, enjoying the proſpect of the vale from Newbridge to the junction of the two rivers.

I had frequently experienced the good effects of Mr. Evans's interpoſition with the natives who were unacquainted with Engliſh, but I never felt greater regret at his abſence than when I called at the public houſe: the only perſon within was an old woman, who in reply to my requeſt of refreſhment for myſelf, and corn for my horſe, repeatedly anſwered "dim Saeſonaeg" or no Engliſh. After ineffectual attempts to make myſelf underſtood, I fortunately articulated cwrw, which brought a ſmile on her countenance, and a mug of ale on the table; ſtill, however, I was without refreſhment, and my horſe without corn, and we had faſted nearly twelve hours. While I was meditating whether I ſhould ſeek another public houſe, or continue my journey to Pont y Pool, I was relieved from my embarraſſment by a labourer, who called for a mug of cwrw; as he

ſpoke

ſpoke both Engliſh and Welſh, he explained my wants; I made a hearty meal on ſome toaſted bread and cheeſe, the *rare bit* of the country, and divided the cwrw with my horſe; I took the liquor, and he the grains, the only provender to be obtained in the place. Our reſpective meals did not detain us long; I croſſed Crumlin bridge, and continued to Pont y Pool park, along the ſame defile which I before traverſed, the pleaſing ſcenery of which was ſoftened by the gleams of the moon ſhining on the ſurface of the lake at the eaſtern extremity of the vale.

CHAPTER 28.

Road from Pont y Pool to Abergavenny.—Mamhilad.—Lanover.—Church.—Ancient Families of Cecil and Rumſey.—Excurſions to Coed y Prior and Goytre.

IN my way from Pont y Pool to Abergavenny, I croſſed the Avon Lwyd, over a bridge called Pont y Moel, at the extremity of Mr. Leigh's park, and in a mile entered the high road leading from Newport to Abergavenny*. Soon afterwards I paſſed the church of Lanvihangel Pont y Moel, and a farm called Great Monkſwood, which was formerly a religious houſe belonging to the abbey of Tintern, and preſerves the appearance of its former condition in its gothic doorways. A little beyond the road divides; one branch leads to Uſk by Little Monkſwood farm and chapel, at the foot of wooded eminences; the other, which I followed, turns to the north, and proceeds ſtrait to Mamhilad, a village with a ſmall gothic church, which is a chapel of eaſe to Lanover. The church yard contains no leſs than twelve fine yew trees, of which the girth of the largeſt was twenty-five feet.

From Mamhilad the road continues in a rectilinear direction; leaves the grounds of Mr. Waddington, at Lanover, on the right, croſſes the Uſk at Lanellen, over a wooden bridge, and joins the high road from the New Paſſage, Uſk, and Monmouth, oppoſite Coldbrook houſe, about a mile from Abergavenny. Of all the roads I traverſed in this delightful country, part of this from Pont y Pool to Abergavenny is not the leaſt intereſting; the country is gently waving, ſlopes gradually into the vale of the Uſk, and for a conſiderable way commands the ſerpentine courſe of that beautiful river. It is ſkirted on the weſtern ſide by a chain of undulating hills, commencing with the rich eminence of

* At this point the diſtances from ſeveral parts of the county are marked on a flat ſtone.

	Miles.		Miles.
From Pont y Pool	1	Monmouth	19
To Uſk	6	Chepſtow	20
Caerleon	7	New Paſſage	20
Newport	9	From London	143
Abergavenny	9		

Edith Palmer del. Harding sc

VIEW from Mrs WADDINGTONS GROUNDS

Blorenge Sugar Loaf Little & Great Skyerid

Pub. 20 July 1800 by Cadell & Davies Strand.

of Pont y Pool park, mantled with wood, and interſperſed with occaſional fields of corn and paſture, till they approach the naked ridge of the Blorenge.

Lanover houſe, the ſeat of Benjamin Waddington, eſq. is ſituated to the right of the high road, nearly midway between Pont y Pool and Abergavenny. In this delightful ſpot I conſtantly experienced a kind and hoſpitable reception, and paſſed much of my time during my continuance in Monmouthſhire; the commodious diſtance from Abergavenny, Lanſanfraed, Clytha, Uſk, and Pont y Pool park, enabled me to enjoy the ſociety of my friends, while I was exploring the beauties of the adjacent country.

The pariſh of Lanover, comprehending an extenſive diſtrict, ſtretches beyond Blaenavon and Pont y Pool, and is the mother church of the chapels of Trevethin, Mamhilad, and Capel Nywydd.

The houſe ſtands on a gentle riſe, near the torrent Rhyd y Mirch, which falls from the neighbouring hills, and ripling through the grounds, haſtens towards the Uſk. In the front the rich meadows ſink into an oval vale, interſected by the meandering Uſk, and ſkirted by a range of gentle elevations, dotted with numerous ſeats churches and hamlets; beyond theſe riſe in a grand ſucceſſion, hills and mountains which combine the varieties of light and ſhade, and vie in the contraſt and ſingularity of their forms. The extremity of the vale is cloſed by the Clytha hills, mantled with wood; the elegant and wooded ſwell of the Little Skyrrid is backed by the majeſtic top of St. Michael's mount; the gloomy and irregular maſs of the Black mountains bound the diſtant horizon; to theſe ſucceed the ruſſet ſummits of the Gaer and Brynaro, the four Pen y Vale Hills, which form beautiful undulations above the town of Abergavenny, and are crowned by the Sugar Loaf. Beyond the Sugar Loaf, the perſpective of the Vale of the Uſk terminates in the rugged crags in the vicinity of Crickhowel; oppoſite, towers the magnificent Blorenge, and joins the chain of hills which ſtretch to Pont y Pool.

In no part of Monmouthſhire are the forms of theſe mountains more beautifully contraſted: the flowing outline of the Sugar Loaf here preſented itſelf with peculiar effect, particularly at the cloſe of evening, when the ſun gradually declines behind the Blorenge; the valley was immerſed in ſhade, the hollows be-

tween the mountains filled with luminous vapour, and the ſummit tinged with a purple hue, till

" Twilight grey
" Had in her ſober livery all things clad."

The church of Lanover ſtands in a romantic poſition, on the banks of the Uſk, about half a mile from the houſe; it is a handſome gothic edifice, conſiſting of a high embattled tower of hewn ſtone, a nave, and a chancel, and by the care of Mr. Waddington is kept in an extraordinary ſtate of order and neatneſs. On examining the ſepulchral inſcriptions, I was ſtruck with a ſingular inſtance of that pride of anceſtry for which the Welſh were formerly diſtinguiſhed, which excited emulation in the age of chivalry, and furniſhed themes of never failing incenſe to the bards of yore:

" Here

Edwh. Fatmer del.

LANOVER CHURCH

" Here lyeth the bodies of William Prichard,
" Of Lanovor, Eſquier, and of Matthew Prichard,
" Of Lanovor, Eſq. His ſonne and Heire lineally
" Deſcended from the Bodye of Cradocke
" Vraich vras Earle of Hereford and Prince
" Betweene Wye and Seaverne."

The creſt of the Prichard family is likewiſe carved at the back of their pew; a wiverne's head, eraſed, holding in the mouth a hand couped at the wriſt, with an inſcription: " The armes of M. P. of Lanovor, Eſquier." This ancient family reſided at Lanover Court, in this pariſh, now a farm houſe, and were ſucceeded by the Rumſeys, who unable to derive their origin from a knight of the round table, and a companion in arms of king Arthur, yet yielded unwillingly the palm of deſcent to their predeceſſors. At the back of the ſame pew is a dexter hand graſping a ſword, with an inſcription; " The armes of Water Romſey " of Lannovor, Eſquier, Linealie deſcended from the Bodie of Sir Water Rumſey, " Knight, Lord Baronet of the Lordſhippe and Town of Rumſey in Hampſhire."

Theſe inſcriptions are ſtrikingly contraſted with the modeſt epitaph of a deſcendant of the great Cecil family:

" Here under lyeth ye Body
" of Walter Cecil: Eſq. who depart
" ed this Life ye 18. day of April,
" Anno Dom. 1754. Aged 69 years."

The ſhield of arms * alone marks his affinity to the earls of Exeter and Saliſbury; their common anceſtor, Robert Sitſylt † or Cecil, aſſiſted Robert Fitzhamon in the conqueſt of Glamorgan; his deſcendant Richard, lord of Altyrynnis, left two ſons, Philip, and David ſeated at Stamford in Lincolnſhire, and anceſtor of the earls of Saliſbury and Exeter. Philip, the eldeſt ſon, was proprietor of Altyrynnis, and his deſcendants had large poſſeſſions in Herefordſhire and Monmouthſhire. Walter, here interred, was the laſt of this family who poſſeſſed Lanover houſe; he was great grandfather to Mr. Cecil, of the Duffrin near Groſmont, and commiſſioner of

* Barry of ten argent and azure; over all ſix eſcutcheons, three, two, and one, ſable, charged each with a lion rampant, argent: the ſame arms are emblazoned in the windows of the old manſion at Altyrynnis; and are alſo borne by the marquis of Saliſbury and the earl of Exeter.

† Dugdale's Baronage, art. Cecil.

of the ſtamps at Monmouth, who ſold it in 1786 to Mr. Sever, of Bromyard in Herefordſhire, from whom it was purchaſed a few years ago, by Mr. Waddington.

A pleaſant road runs from Lanover church, along the right bank of the rapid and limpid Uſk, to the village of Lanellen, which derives its name from the church, dedicated to St. Ellen. A wooden bridge is thrown acroſs the river, which, like all mountain torrents, is here peculiarly ſubject to ſudden inundations; I croſſed it one evening in my way to Abergavenny, during the rainy autumn of 1799, confined in a deep and narrow channel; but in returning on the following morning, the ſtream had riſen to ſo great a height, that I paſſed it with the utmoſt difficulty. The current poured with violence through the hollow roads in the vicinity of the bridge, overflowed the hedges, and ſpread its devaſtations far and wide: in ſeveral places the water reached my horſe's girths, and had I delayed my return an hour, the bridge would have been utterly impaſſable. This inundation, however terrible to the natives, added greatly to the beauty of the ſcenery; as I rode along the ſlope of the hills, overhanging the vale, the Uſk appeared ſwollen into an expanſe of waters, as broad as a lake, and as impetuous as the Rhine or the Danube iſſuing from the mountains of Switzerland.

Next to the Sugar Loaf, the principal feature of the variegated landſcape, in the environs of Lanover, is the weſtern chain of hills which extend to Pont y Pool. On a general view, and at ſome diſtance, they appear to form a continuous and uniform ridge; but are a ſucceſſion of eminences, ſeparated by dingles, which are clothed with thickets, and watered by lively torrents. The Blorenge, ſo often mentioned, forms the northern extremity of this chain, and its termination is eaſily diſtinguiſhed, by the bare and hoary ſummit, from which its characteriſtic appellation is derived *. The hills, which ſucceed to this bleak mountain, exhibit an undulating ſurface, thickly mantled with wood, form a pleaſing back ground in every point of view, and reſemble, more than any I have hitherto ſeen in England, the hills in the lower regions of Switzerland.

In one of our morning excurſions, Mr. Waddington conducted me to the ſummit of the Coed y Prior, or Priory Wood, a ſmall undulating eminence at the foot of the Blorenge. It derives its name from a wood on the top and ſides, which formerly belonged to the priory of Abergavenny, and is now in the poſſeſſion of

* Blawr rheng, or the hoary ridge.

of Mr. Swinnerton; from its ſituation, it might with more propriety be called the Little Blorenge. About half a mile from Lanover houſe, we croſſed Nant Organ, a rapid ſtream, and gently aſcended the left bank as it ruſhed down the wooded declivity. Several receſſes of paſture on the margin of the limpid torrent, embowered in wood, convey a ſtriking reſemblance of Alpine ſcenes.

This eminence is ſeparated from the Blorenge, by a dingle watered by lively rills that deſcend into the Uſk. In our progreſs we ſometimes paſſed through deep thickets, at other times croſſed open commons, covered with fern and heath, until we reached the higheſt point, over which lowers the bleak top of the Blorenge, and which commands an intereſting view of that faſcinating combination of hill and dale, plains and mountains, which I have ſo often attempted to deſcribe.

In company with Mr. Waddington, I alſo made ſeveral excurſions into the diſtrict, to the ſouth-eaſt of Lanover, between the high road and the town of Uſk, which deſerves to be viſited for its ſingular wildneſs. The hamlet of Goytre, or Coedtrev, in the midſt of this region, derives its appellation from the foreſts with which it is ſurrounded, and abounds with delightful receſſes and pleaſant glades dotted with white cottages. Mr. Waddington remarked, that this diſtrict continually reminded him of the wilds of America; and in the courſe of our rides, pointed out to me a houſe recently built by a gentleman, who paſſed great part of his life on the other ſide of the Atlantic, and choſe this ſequeſtered ſpot, from its ſtriking reſemblance to the ſcenes which were familiar to him from his infancy.

The hamlet is a collection of ſcattered cottages, placed at conſiderable diſtances from each other. A farm houſe adjoining to the church bears the appearance of a decayed manſion, and is almoſt the only object in the vicinity. The ſituation of the church itſelf, ſtanding on a riſe, and emboſomed in the wood, is no leſs pictureſque than that of Lanover, though of a different caſt; the ſimplicity of the form, without a tower, and in the early ſtyle of gothic architecture, accords with the ſurrounding ſcenery.

The few bye-roads, which interſect this tract, are ſtrait, deep, narrow, and ſtony, and exhibit occaſional traces of paved cauſeways, which prove that it was formerly more frequented than at preſent.

CHAPTER 29.

Coldbrook Houſe.—Proprietors.—Anecdotes of Sir Charles Hanbury Williams.

COLDBROOK houſe, in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny, is diſtinguiſhed for the reſidence of two perſons equally memorable in their time, though for different qualifications; the one ſir Richard Herbert, whoſe character I have before delineated, the intrepid ſoldier and flower of chivalry; the other, ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, the poliſhed courtier, and the votary of wit and pleaſure.

On the death of ſir Richard Herbert, the eſtate and manſion of Coldbrook came to his eldeſt ſon ſir William, and continued in his deſcendants, the ninth of whom, ſir James Herbert, dying in 1709, without iſſue male, the eſtate and ſeat were conveyed by Judith, his ſole daughter and heireſs, to her huſband ſir Thomas Powell, of Broadway, in the county of Caermarthen, one of the juſtices of the court of king's bench. On their death without iſſue male, the fortune was divided between their three daughters: the landed property was ſold; the eſtate and manſion of Coldbrook were purchaſed by major Hanbury *, of Pont y Pool, and ſettled on his third ſon Charles, who, in conſequence of the will of his godfather Charles Williams eſq. of Caerleon, aſſumed the name of Williams, and is well known under the appellation of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams.

Charles Hanbury (Williams) was born in 1709, and educated at Eton, where he made conſiderable progreſs in claſſical literature; and having finiſhed his ſtudies, travelled through various parts of Europe. Soon after his return he aſſumed the name of Williams, obtained from his father the eſtate of Coldbrook, and eſpouſed, in 1732, lady Frances Coningſby, youngeſt daughter of Thomas earl of Coningſby.

On

* See p. 238

Sr CHARLES HANBURY WILLIAMS

From an Original Picture in the possession of the Revd Duncan Davies Monmouth.

Published 1 May 1800 by Cadell & Davies Strand.

On the death of his father in 1733, he was elected member of parliament for the county of Monmouth, and uniformly ſupported the adminiſtration of ſir Robert Walpole, whom he idoliſed: he received from that miniſter many early and conſidential marks of eſteem, and in 1739 was appointed by him paymaſter of the marines. His name occurs only twice as a ſpeaker, in Chandler's Debates; but the ſubſtance of his ſpeech is given in neither inſtance.

Sprightlineſs of converſation, ready wit, and agreeable manners, introduced him to the acquaintance of men of the firſt talents; he was the ſoul of the celebrated coterie, of which the moſt conſpicuous members were, lord Hervey, Winnington, Horace Walpole (late earl of Orford) Stephen Fox (earl of Ilcheſter) and Henry Fox (lord Holland) with whom in particular he lived in the ſtricteſt habits of intimacy and friendſhip. At this period he diſtinguiſhed himſelf by political ballads remarkable for vivacity, keenneſs of invective, and eaſe of verſification. He did not, however, confine his ſatire to politics, but deſcended into private life; with much wit and little delicacy, he wrote a ſevere lampoon on the marriage of Mr. Huſſey, afterwards lord Beaulieu, with Iſabella, daughter and heireſs of John duke of Montague, and widow of William duke of Mancheſter, whoſe exquiſite beauty attracted general admiration:

" Wide was the extent of her commands,
" O'er fertile fields, o'er barren lands
" She ſtretch'd her haughty reign:
" The coxcomb, fool, and man of ſenſe,
" Youth, manhood, age, and impotence,
" With pride receiv'd her chain*."

The ode was written in 1743, ſoon after the marriage, and confined to the peruſal of his intimate friends; but copies being indiſcreetly circulated, it became public in 1746, to the chagrin and diſſatisfaction of the author.

Mr. Huſſey bore the ſevere attack with great forbearance; but the Hibernian ſpirit was rouſed by the illiberal ſatire againſt the whole nation:

" Nature

* Ode to Henry Fox, eſq. on the marriage of the ducheſs of Mancheſter.

" Nature indeed denies them ſenſe ;
" But gives them legs, and impudence,
" That beats all underſtanding ;"

and ſeveral Iriſh gentlemen in London ſeem to have entered into a combination to challenge the author. To avoid a ſucceſſion of duels, by the advice of his friends, he prudently retired into Monmouthſhire, though he did not himſelf entertain ſerious apprehenſions of danger *. His abſence, and the intervention of friends, cooled the anger of thoſe whom his ſatire had provoked, gave them time to reflect on the abſurdity of converting a national into a perſonal quarrel, and their cauſe was juſtly avenged by ſeveral counter lampoons, which vied with his own in ſprightlineſs and wit †.

In 1746 he was inſtalled knight of the bath, and ſoon after his return to London, appointed envoy to the court of Dreſden ; a miſſion which his lampooners

* Theſe facts are principally drawn from a letter written to him by his friend Mr. Fox, which is preſerved in the collection at Pont y Pool :

War Office, Sept. 6. 1746.

" My dear ſir Charles,

You may well wonder I have not wrote to you, but I have thought ſo much about the ſcrape your laſt ode has been like, and may ſtill be like to draw you into, that I could not write without endeavouring to inform you of the truth, and have not yet been able to get at the truth of the various reports that have been made about it.

What is certain, I believe, is that Huſſey came to Holland houſe to enquire for you ſome hours after you went. You know I thought it natural that he might expoſtulate with you about it; but as he actually ſet out for Ireland laſt Sunday, to ſtay at leaſt till May, I thought it certain, and ſtill think that reſentment muſt drop and be forgot. But it has been too ſtrongly to have no grounds reported, that the Iriſh (to ſhew they have underſtandings) have determined to make an irreconcileable quarrel of it; and that a dozen or fourteen had entered into mutual promiſes that the firſt who met ſhould affront you; and farther, that one Mr. Mervin had promiſed Mr. Huſſey to be his proxy in the quarrel as ſoon as you ſhould come to town. You may laugh at all this; but I do aſſure you at the ſame time, that every body ridicules and condemns it. Your ſerious friends, and I in the firſt place, think it puts you in a diſagreeable ſituation, and I am heartily and exceſſively concerned about it.

Lord Harrington will talk to Dumville about it, and thinks as I do, and other pains will be taken to bring theſe gentlemen to better ſenſes than their own; and I flatter myſelf that it ſubſides, and the ridicule of making a perſonal quarrel of a national reflection, muſt be acknowledged. I have heard too, that Mr. Mervin ſays his aſking for you at White's was as Mr. Huſſey's meſſenger, not on his own account.

But I ſtill think you will run riſque of being affronted, though the abſurd engagement to challenge you they will be aſhamed of; and what good telling you all this dos, I don't know. But you can't imagine how very uneaſie I have been and ſhall be about it till I am ſure 'tis all over."

† " Stop, ſtop, my ſteed, hail Cambria, hail, &c."
" Who's that, what, Hanbury the lyric, &c."

lampooners imputed to cowardice *, but which he attributes to a nobler motive; his affliction for the death of his friend Mr. Winnington, which threw him into a temporary fit of deep melancholy, and conſiderably affected his health. An epitaph † which he compoſed to his memory, is written with much feeling, and a letter to ſir Thomas Robinſon on that event, does honour to his friendſhip.

" I am here a good deal retired, and in a melancholy way, which I have been in ever ſince the death of my friend Mr. Winnington, in whom my country loſt an uſeful citizen, and I the man upon earth I lovd the beſt. 'Twas upon his death I begd the king to ſend me abroad, and reſigned a very profitable employment to come out of a country where I miſsd an object that I eſteemd and honourd very highly, and where every thing daily put me in mind of him. When he dy'd he had much the beſt intereſt of any man in England with the king; and had three times in one day returned the chancellour's of the exchequer ſeal into the king's hand, who wou'd fain have forc'd it upon him; but he was ſteady to his friends, and the cauſe in which he had embark'd, and proof againſt the temptation of power itſelf ‡."

The votary of wit and pleaſure was inſtantly transformed into a man of buſineſs, and the author of ſatirical odes penned excellent diſpatches. He was well adapted for the office of a foreign miniſter, and the lively no leſs than the ſolid parts of his character, proved uſeful in his new employment: flow of converſation, ſprightlineſs of wit, politeneſs of demeanour, eaſe of addreſs, convivialty of diſpoſition, together with the delicacy of his table, attracted perſons of all deſcriptions. He had an excellent tact for diſcriminating characters, humouring the foibles of thoſe with whom he negotiated, and conciliating thoſe by whom the great were either directly or indirectly governed.

In 1749 he was appointed, at the expreſs deſire of the king, to ſucceed Mr. Legge as miniſter plenipotentiary to the court of Berlin; but in 1751 returned to his embaſſy at Dreſden. During his reſidence at theſe courts, he tranſacted

* " Think you, becauſe you baſely fled,
" To Saxony to hide your head,
" On odes you ſtill may venture?" &c.

† See ſir Charles H. Williams's Odes.
" Near his paternal ſeat, here buried lies, &c."

‡ Grantham papers. Dreſden, July 10, N. S. 1747.

tranſacted the affairs of England and Hanover with ſo much addreſs, that he was diſpatched to Peterſburg, in a time of critical emergency, to conduct a negotiation of great delicacy and importance.

The diſputes concerning the limits of Nova Scotia, and the poſſeſſions in North America threatened a rupture between Great Britain and France; hoſtilities were on the point of commencing in America, and France had reſolved to invade the Low Countries and the electorate of Hanover, and to excite a continental war. With this view the cabinet of Verſailles propoſed to the king of Pruſſia, to co-operate in invading the electorate, and attacking the dominions of the houſe of Auſtria, hitherto the inſeparable ally of England. The Britiſh cabinet, alarmed at this aſpect of affairs, formed the plan of a triple alliance between Great Britain, Auſtria, and Ruſſia, and to promote the negotiation, the king repaired to Hanover, accompanied by the earl of Holderneſſe, ſecretary of ſtate.

Sir Charles Hanbury Williams arrived at St. Peterſburg in the latter end of June; the negotiation had been already opened by Mr. Guy Dickins, who lately occupied the poſt of envoy to the court of Ruſſia; but his character and manners were not calculated to enſure ſucceſs. He was treated with coldneſs and reſerve by the empreſs, and had rendered himſelf highly offenſive to the great chancellor count Beſtucheff.

On the firſt appearance of the new embaſſador things immediately wore a favourable aſpect; at his preſence all obſtacles were inſtantly removed, and all difficulties vaniſhed. The votary of wit and pleaſure was well received by the gay and voluptuous Eliſabeth; he attached to his cauſe the great duke, afterwards the unfortunate Peter the third, and his conſort the princeſs of Anhalt Zerbſt, who became conſpicuous under the name of Catherine the ſecond. All the miniſters vied in loading him with marks of attention and civility; he broke through the uſual forms of etiquette, and united in his favour the diſcordant views of the Ruſſian cabinet; he conciliated the unbending and ſuſpicious Beſtucheff; warmed the phlegmatic temper of the vice chancellor

count Voronzoff; and gained the under agents, who were enabled, by petty intrigues and ſecret cabals, to thwart the intentions of the principal miniſters. He fulfilled literally the tenor of his own expreſſions, that he would "*make uſe of the honey-moon of* "*his miniſtry*," to conclude the convention as ſpeedily as poſſible on the beſt terms which could be obtained; he executed the orders of the king, not to ſign any treaty in which an attack on any of his majeſty's allies, or on any part of his electoral dominions, was not made a caſus fœderis; in ſix weeks after his arrival at St. Peterſburg, he obtained the ſignature, without uſing all the full powers intruſted to him by the Britiſh cabinet, and inſtantly tranſmitted it to Hanover.

His ſanguine imagination exaggerated the merit of his ſervices; and he fondly expected an inſtantaneous anſwer filled with expreſſions of high applauſe. Some time, however, elapſed before any anſwer arrived; at length the expected meſſenger came; he ſeiſed the diſpatches, and opened them with extreme impatience, in the preſence of his confidential friend count Poniatowſki, afterwards king of Poland. In a few minutes he threw the letter which he was reading on the floor, ſtruck his forehead with both his hands, and remained for ſome time abſorbed in a deep reverie. Turning at length to count Poniatowſki, he exclaimed, "Would you think it poſſible? Inſtead of receiving thanks for my zeal and activity in concluding the convention, I am blamed for an informality in the ſignature, and the king is diſpleaſed with my efforts to ſerve him *."

This exceſſive diſappointment threw him into a ſtate of deſpondency, and was probably one cauſe of his ſubſequent derangement. To the embaſſador at Peterſburg, the conduct of the Britiſh cabinet was an enigma, which was ſoon explained. During the period which elapſed between the arrival of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams at Peterſburg, and the receipt of the convention at Hanover, an extraordinary and unexpected change had taken place in the politics of the Britiſh cabinet: Maria Thereſa, apprehenſive of an attack from the king of Pruſſia, refuſed to protect the electorate of Hanover, if invaded in conſequence of

* This intereſting anecdote I received from the late king of Poland himſelf in 1785.

of a rupture between France and Great Britain, on account of diſputes in America; ſhe eluded ſending, in conformity with the articles of the barrier treaty, the ſtipulated number of troops into the Low Countries, and was ſuſpected of maintaining a ſecret correſpondence with the court of Verſailles; hence the Britiſh cabinet were reduced to a ſtate of ſuſpence, and the king was alarmed for the ſafety of his German dominions. At this critical juncture, private overtures from the king of Pruſſia, through the channel of the duke of Brunſwic, were eagerly received; the earl of Holderneſſe was diſpatched to Brunſwic, and a ſecret negotiation opened with the court of Berlin *.

Hence the efforts of ſir Charles to prejudice the empreſs Eliſabeth againſt the king of Pruſſia, and in favour of Auſtria, were adverſe to the views of the Britiſh miniſtry; hence the ſignature of the convention, and the profuſe expenditure of money which procured its immediate concluſion, were not ſubjects of applauſe. An objection was made againſt two of the articles, as well as againſt an informality in the ſignature, and the king expreſſed his diſapprobation in terms of the higheſt diſpleaſure. The convention was to be re-executed with conſiderable alterations, and the efforts of the embaſſador directed to ſupport the new ſyſtem of continental politics.

In promoting theſe views he was no leſs indefatigable, though leſs ſucceſsful than in his former exertions. He obtained indeed the ſignature of a new convention, on the conditions preſcribed by the king his maſter, but could not ſhake the attachment of Eliſabeth to Maria Thereſa, or allay her perſonal enmity to Frederic the ſecond, who had excited her reſentment by ſarcaſtic animadverſions.

The French, availing themſelves of theſe circumſtances, ſent the chevalier Douglas (a gentleman of Scottiſh extraction, who aſſumed the name of Mackenzie) to counteract the efforts of the Britiſh embaſſador. Their intereſts were eſpouſed by the vice chancellor Voronzof, but they found a ſtill more powerful advocate in count Ivan Schuvalof, the favourite of Eliſabeth, who was flattered

* Diſpatches from the earl of Holderneſſe to the duke of Newcaſtle and ſir Benjamin Keene. Keene's Papers.

flattered with the attentions of the court of Verſailles, and laboured to introduce a French embaſſador. In this ſituation of affairs, Douglas, ſupplied with large ſums of money, and ſkilled in intrigue, ſucceeded in rendering the convention ineffectual, and in cementing the alliance between Ruſſia and Auſtria, by the intervention of France.

During theſe tranſactions, ſir Charles was treated by the empreſs with coldneſs and reſerve; he was avoided by the principal courtiers; and reports were induſtriouſly circulated of the king's diſpleaſure, and of his ſpeedy recal. The irkſomeneſs of his ſituation, and the decline of his health, rendered him deſirous to retire from this ſcene of buſineſs in the latter end of 1756. "Diſ-"appointment," as he afterwards feelingly obſerved in a letter to the earl of Holderneſſe, "in every thing I undertook, and vexation at not being able to "exert myſelf in the manner I ought, and wiſhed to do, added to my long ill-"neſs, made me reſolve not to remain here in a ſituation almoſt uſeleſs to my "ſovereign, and dangerous to my own health *."

In conſequence of repeated and earneſt entreaties, permiſſion was granted for his return, and the letter of recal actually forwarded through the channel of Mr. Mitchel, Britiſh miniſter at Berlin; but the king of Pruſſia ſo ſtrongly remonſtrated againſt his recal at this critical juncture, that Mr. Mitchel ventured to ſend back the letter to the earl of Holderneſſe, accompanied with the warmeſt eulogium of his character and ſervices.

"Your lordſhip is informed," he ſays, "that for ſome months paſt, ſir Charles Hanbury Williams has been much truſted by the king of Pruſſia in affairs of a very delicate nature." "The great duke and ducheſs are equally well diſpoſed to the king, and to his Pruſſian majeſty. It is therefore humbly ſubmitted to your lordſhip, whether the recalling of ſir Charles Williams at this time, may not be very prejudicial to their affairs, as they will thereby be deprived of all advice and aſſiſtance from a perſon in whom they have great confidence, and in a conjuncture the moſt dangerous and critical that can be imagined; nor is it poſſible to remedy this by ſending any other perſon to ſucceed ſir Charles Hanbury Williams,

* Sir Charles Hanbury Williams to the earl of Holderneſſe. March 22, N. S. 1757.

Williams, whoſe knowledge and connections with the miniſters of that court cannot be eaſily transferred. Far leſs can his intimacy and friendſhip with the ſucceſſor to the crown, be devolved upon any new miniſter of what character ſoever *."

The earl of Holderneſſe accompanied this flattering teſtimony of the king of Pruſſia's confidence with a permiſſion to return; but expreſſed the ſatisfaction his ſovereign would derive from his continuance at Peterſburg. Sir Charles could not withſtand the earneſt entreaties of the Pruſſian monarch, and the condeſcending requeſt of his royal maſter; he continued in his poſt until all his efforts proved unſucceſsful, and the empreſs coaleſced with Auſtria and France. In the midſt of this arduous buſineſs his health rapidly declined, his head was occaſionally affected, and his mind diſtracted with vexation; the irregularities of his life irritated his nerves, and a fatiguing journey exhauſted his ſpirits.

Soon after his arrival at Hamburgh, in the autumn of 1757, he was ſuddenly ſmitten with a woman of low intrigue, gave her a note for £. 2,000, and a contract of marriage, though his wife was ſtill living; he alſo took large doſes of ſtimulating medicines, which affected his head, and was conveyed to England in a ſtate of inſanity. During the paſſage, he fell from the deck into the hold, and dangerouſly bruiſed his ſide; he was blooded four times on board, and four times immediately after his arrival in England. In a little more than a month, he recovered, and paſſed the ſummer at Coldbrook houſe. From this place, he wrote a letter to his friend Mr. Keith, which proves the calm ſtate of his mind, and breathes the warmth of paternal affection:

" By a letter which I wrote to baron Wolfe ſome time ago, and which I don't " doubt he ſhewed you, you have been informed already of the wretched ſtate " of my health, both at Hamburgh and ſince my return to England. But I am " now as perfectly well as ever I was in my life, and improving this charming " place, where I hope to ſee you one day, to talk over things that nobody but " you and I in England underſtand.

" My beloved lady Eſſex, who I aſſure you has a true friendſhip for you, and " who

* Mr. Mitchel to the earl of Holderneſſe, Brunſwic, Feb. 8, 1757.

" who I believe eſteems you as much as any man in the world, who is not of her " own family, will I hope be very ſoon here to paſs away the beſt part of the " ſummer with me; I leave you to imagine my happineſs in ſeeing her, to be- " hold what I love much the beſt in the world, endowed with every exterior " charm, and an inſide that at leaſt equals her beautiful perſon. Her knowledge " of the court and of the world is prodigious. She has many acquaintance " among her own ſex, and two of the moſt exemplary women we have in " England for her friends, I mean lady Caroline Fox, and the counteſs of Dalkeith. " She is diſtinguiſhed more than any woman that comes to court by the king; " and for good breeding and good ſenſe has hardly her equal in England. But " one thing, which perhaps you dont know about her is, that ſhe ſhines full as " much in the character of a good houſewife, as ſhe does in that of a fine lady; " and that all the accounts of my lord's eſtates, and the expences of his houſe, are " neatly kept in books by her own hand. In ſhort, ſhe has exceeded all my " hopes, and requited my fondeſt wiſhes about her; and I will not imagine this " deſcription to be tedious to you, becauſe I am ſure the friend will feel and read " with pleaſure, what the father feels with tranſport, and writes with truth."

Towards the latter end of 1759, he relapſed into a ſtate of inſanity, and expired on the 2d of November, aged 50.

His official diſpatches are written with great life and ſpirit; he delineates characters with truth and facility; and deſcribes his diplomatic tranſactions with minuteneſs and accuracy, but without tedioufneſs or formality.

The verſes of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams were highly prized by his contemporaries, and the letters of his friend Mr. Fox, abound with extravagant commendations of his poetical talents; but in peruſing thoſe which have been given to the public, and thoſe which are ſtill in manuſcript, the greater part are political effuſions, or licentious lampoons, abounding with local wit and temporary ſatire, eagerly read at the time of their appearance, but little intereſting to poſterity. Three of his pieces, however, deſerve to be exempted from this general character; his poem of Iſabella, or the Morning, is remarkable for eaſe of verſification, and happy diſcrimination of character; his epitaph on Mr. Winnington

nington is written with great feeling; and his beautiful ode to Mr. Pointz, in honour of the duke of Cumberland, breathes a ſpirit of ſublimity, which entitles the author to the rank of a poet, and excites our regret that his muſe was not always employed on ſubjects worthy of his talents.

Sir Charles left by his wife two daughters, Frances, firſt wife of William Anne late earl of Eſſex, and Charlotte, who eſpouſed the honourable Robert Boyle Walſingham, youngeſt ſon of the earl of Shannon, a commodore in the navy. On his death without iſſue male, the eſtate and manſion of Coldbrook came to his brother George, who died in 1764, and now belongs to his ſon John Hanbury Williams, eſq. the preſent proprietor.

Coldbrook houſe is delightfully ſituated to the ſouth of Abergavenny, on the left of the high road leading to Monmouth, and the New Paſſage, at the foot of the Little Skyrrid, in the midſt of grounds beautifully diverſified, and richly clothed with oak, beech, and elm.

The ancient manſion was an irregular edifice, with a ſquare tower at each angle; the northern front, with an elegant doric portico, was conſtructed by ſir Charles Hanbury Williams. The houſe contains ſeveral well proportioned apartments, but is more calculated for a ſummer than for a winter reſidence, as it is emboſomed in the wood, and the principal rooms have a northern aſpect. It has been much improved by the preſent proprietor, but the furniture and decorations are nearly the ſame as in the time of ſir Charles.

The family portraits are few in number: two heads of his father major Hanbury, one in armour, and the other in a red night cap, copied from thoſe at Pont y Pool; a portrait of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, in full dreſs, with the inſignia of the bath, painted in 1744, ſoon after he was inveſted with the order, exhibiting a countenance remarkably handſome; another ſmaller portrait in his more advanced age, repreſents him leaning his cheek upon his right hand, and holding in his left the poem of Iſabella, or the Morning; it is ſimilar to that of Pont y Pool, but of a ſmaller ſize*; whole length figures of his two daughters when children.

Beſides

* See the annexed engraving.

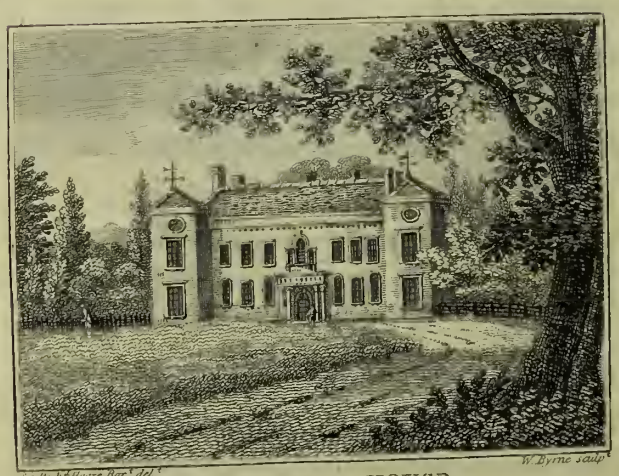
Beſides the family pictures, are a few not unworthy of notice: Henrietta queen of Charles the firſt, and a lady unknown, by Vandyke, in his beſt manner; heads of Oliver Cromwell, William the third, and queen Mary; George the ſecond, in his royal robes, with the ſceptre in his hand; the duke of Cumberland; a whole length of ſir Robert Walpole, in the robes of chancellor of the Exchequer, a preſent from the miniſter, and a copy from the original picture by Vanloo, now in the Imperial collection at Peterſburg, from which ſeveral engravings have been taken; Frederic the ſecond, king of Pruſſia; Audrey, wife of Charles, third lord viſcount Townſhend, of whom ſo many witticiſms, which ſhe really did ſay, are recorded, and of whom ſo many ſhe did not ſay are reported; John lord Hervey, the intimate friend and companion of ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, as lord privy ſeal, by Vanloo, from which a print has been engraven; and a head of John lord Carteret, afterwards earl Granville.

Among ſeveral other heads I noticed thoſe of ſignora Fraſi, the celebrated ſinger; Mrs. Woffington; Mrs. Oldfield, and her veteran paramour general Churchill: he is drawn in his uniform, and "*well dreſſed perriwig*," and brought to my recollection his admirable portrait, delineated by ſir Charles Hanbury Williams, in colours more animated and durable than were ever repreſented on canvas:

"The Gen'ral! one of thoſe old brave commanders,
"Who ſerv'd through all the glorious wars in Flanders;
"Frank and good natur'd, of an honeſt heart,
"Loving to act the ſteady friendly part.
"None led through youth a gayer life than he,
"Cheerful in converſe, ſmart in repartee:
"Sweet was his night, and joyful was his day,
"He din'd with Walpole, and with Oldfield lay.
"But with old age its vices came along,
"And in narration he's extremely long;
"Exact in circumſtance, and nice in dates,
"He each minute particular relates.

"If

" If you name one of Marlbro's ten campaigns,
" He tells you its whole ſtory for your pains;
" And Blenheim's field becomes by his reciting,
" As long in telling as it was in fighting.
" His old deſire to pleaſe is ſtill expreſs'd,
" His hat 's well cock'd, his perriwig 's well dreſs'd;
" He rolls his ſtockings ſtill, white gloves he wears,
" And in the boxes with the beaux appears;
" His eyes through wrinkled corners caſt their rays;
" Still he looks cheerful, ſtill ſoft things he ſays;
" And ſtill rememb'ring that he once was young,
" He ſtrains his crippl'd knees, and ſtruts along."



Sir Richd Hoare Bart del.t W. Byrne Sculp.t

COLDBROOK HOUSE.

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CHAPTER 30.

Upper and Lower Roads from Abergavenny to Monmouth.—Landeilo Creſſeney.—Family of Lewis.—Portraits and Anecdotes of Thomas and James Howell.—Veſtiges of the Court Houſe, the Reſidence of Sir David Gam.—Remains of the Abbey of Grace Dieu.

TWO high roads lead from Abergavenny to Monmouth; the lower, which is the longeſt, paſſes at a ſmall diſtance from the left bank of the Uſk, leaving Coldbrook Houſe, Lanſanfraed, and Clytha on the left, near which place it turns to the eaſt, through Bringwin and Tregaer, where there are remains of a tumulus and entrenchments, from which the name is derived. It continues through Dynaſtow, croſſes the Trothy, leaves Treowen on the left, and Wonaſtow on the right, and enters Monmouth at the gate of the Monnow. The upper road, which is ſhorter, but more hilly, ſkirts the northern ſide of the Little Skyrrid, paſſes through Lanvaply, Landeilo Creſſeney, and Rockfield, and joins the lower road near the gate of the Monnow.

Landeilo Creſſeney* is ſituated nearly midway between Abergavenny and Monmouth, and is the reſidence of Richard Lewis, eſq. to whom I was more than once indebted for a kind and friendly reception. The houſe ſtands in a fertile, encloſed, undulating, and richly wooded country, and commands extenſive views of the diſtant hills and mountains, particularly the rough ridge of the Great Skyrrid, which riſes above the cultivated eminences, crowned by the majeſtic ruins

* The village of Landeilo, or Lantilio Creſſeney, takes its name from the church, which is dedicated to St. Teliau, and from an aſh which ſtood at the interſection of two roads; the name ſignifying the church of St. Teliau, near the Croſs Aſh.

ruins of White Caſtle. A deep, broad and extenſive entrenchment, in the grounds near the houſe, and an artificial mound of earth, on which the church is built, ſeem to prove, that in early times there was in this ſpot a place of defence.

Landeilo Houſe was long the ſeat of a younger branch of the family of Powell, deſcended from the Herberts; this family was once extremely numerous, particularly in this part of Monmouthſhire, and ſeveral of their ſeats being ſituated near the Trothy, it became a common ſaying, that the banks of the Trothy were never without a Powell. The male line being extinct on the death of Matthew, his ſiſter Mary conveyed the eſtate to her huſband John Lewis, eſq. of Caermarthenſhire, and their ſon Richard Lewis, eſq. is the preſent proprietor. The manſion is a handſome and convenient modern edifice, and was built by the late Mr. Lewis.

Among a few portraits are thoſe of three brothers, ſons of the Rev. **** Howell, miniſter of Abernant, in Caermarthenſhire, two of whom were remarkable in the hiſtory of the times. One is the head of Thomas Howell, biſhop of Briſtol; he was born in 1588, and became ſcholar and fellow of Jeſus college in the univerſity of Oxford; he was chaplain to king Charles the firſt, promoted to the rectories of St. Stephen's in Walbrook, London, and Weſt Horſely in Surry, and in 1636 made canon of Windſor. At the beginning of the troubles he was driven by perſecution from both his livings, which were then ſequeſtered for his abſence. The king, compaſſionating his misfortunes, nominated him to the ſee of Briſtol; but this elevation was the cauſe of his ſufferings and death. "He met," ſays Walker, "with barbarous uſage from the hands of the rebels. His palace, which was then covered with lead, they uncaſed and ſold the lead; ſo that he was expoſed to the weather by day and by night. His lady they knew then to be in child-bed, in which condition it rained freely upon her. After many other indignities, they pulled and halled him violently out of the palace. In a word, their uſage towards him was ſuch, that he did not long ſurvive their cruelty; but being a perſon of a mild and tender ſpirit, died ſoon after." "He was accounted," ſaith Wood, "a meek man, and a good

preacher, and had in his younger days been a very painful one." Lloyd adds, "that he was a perſon of great clearneſs, candour, ſolidneſs, ſweetneſs, and eloquence; that he had an inſight into ſtate affairs, as well as the more peculiar concerns of his own function; that though he found few well affected in his dioceſe at his coming thither, yet he left few ill affected in it at his death; and that he was ſo well beloved at Briſtol, that 'tis ſaid, after his deceaſe (which happened in 1646) the city took upon them the care of his childrens' education, (who were eleven in number) in gratitude to the memory of their moſt worthy father*."

The other painting is a ſmall whole length figure of his younger brother James, in a Spaniſh dreſs, leaning againſt a tree, from which the print prefixed to ſome of his works is taken. This ſingular man was born about 1594, and, to uſe his own words, "his aſcendant was that hot conſtellation of Cancer about the midſt of the dog days." He was brought up in the free ſchool of Hereford, and "*under a learned but laſhing maſter*," made a conſiderable progreſs in claſſical literature. He completed his education at Jeſus college, and after taking his bachelor's degree, "tumbled out into the world, a pure cadet, a true "coſmopolite, not born to land, leaſe, houſe or office †.

He commenced his career as ſteward to a glaſs houſe, conducted by perſons of the firſt rank and fortune, travelled as agent for the company through the Low Countries, France, Portugal, Spain and Italy, and acquired ſuch a knowledge of languages, that he ſaid, "*Thank God, I have the fruit of my foreign travels, that I can pray to him every day in the week in a ſeparate language, and upon Sunday in ſeven.*" Soon after his return to England, he was appointed fellow of Jeſus college, "*which*," to uſe his own expreſſions, "*he reſerved and laid by as a good warm garment in rough weather.*" Finding "*his glaſs employment too brittle a foundation to build a fortune upon*," he accepted the place of governor to the ſons of lord Savage; but ſoon quitted that office, on account of his youth and difference of religion, and accompanied the ſon of baron Altham in his travels into France. During a reſidence at Poiſſy, he purſued his ſtudies with ſuch intenſeneſs as to endanger his life.

Being

* Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy, &c. part 2, p. 3.

† Letters, p. 299.

Being on his return to England reſtored to health by the ſkill of the celebrated doctor Harvey, he was appointed by the king agent at Madrid, to obtain the recovery of a rich Engliſh ſhip confiſcated by the viceroy of Sardinia, and in caſe of ſucceſs was promiſed a reward of £. 3,000. Having nearly brought the affair to a favourable concluſion, " *the breaking of the Spaniſh match broke the neck of* " *the whole buſineſs* ;" and he returned to England as unprovided as he went. He now paid his court to the duke of Buckingham, the great diſpenſer of royal favour, and being graciouſly received, entertained ſanguine expectations of ſpeedy promotion. But finding his hopes diſappointed after two years attendance, and juſtly concluding " *that an acre of performance is worth a whole land of promiſe*," he accepted the office of ſecretary to lord Scrope afterwards earl of Sunderland, lord preſident of the north, and accompanied him to York, from whence he wrote to his friend Daniel Caldwell: " *For this preſent condition of life I thank God I live well and contented, I have a fee from the king, diet for myſelf and two ſervants, livery for a horſe, and part of the king's houſe for my lodging* *."

He received great marks of favour from the earl of Strafford, who ſucceeded lord Scrope in the preſidency of the north, but continued with the latter as his private ſecretary until his death. Soon after that event he went in 1632 as ſecretary to Robert earl of Leiceſter, embaſſador extraordinary to the court of Denmark. After his return to England he continued unemployed, excepting a ſingle miſſion to Orleans, until 1639, when he repaired to Dublin, and threw himſelf on the protection of the earl of Strafford, lord deputy, from whom he had received many warm profeſſions which his lordſhip did not belie; he obtained the reverſion of the clerkſhip of the council, and the office of aſſiſtant clerk.

In 1640 he was ſent to France on a ſecret miſſion, and experienced a flattering reception from cardinal Richlieu; in the ſubſequent year he was appointed clerk of the council, but did not long enjoy this honourable and lucrative office; for in 1643 he was ſeiſed by a committee of the parliament, and confined in the Fleet priſon, partly for his known attachment to the royal cauſe, and

* Letters, p. 198.

and partly for debt, where he maintained himſelf by his writings. "*Here*," he ſays, "*I purchaſed a ſmall ſpot of ground upon Parnaſſus, which I had in fee of* "*the muſes, and I have endeavoured to manure it as well as I could, though I con-* "*feſs it hath yielded me little fruit hitherto.*" This fee farm of the muſes however, was conſiderably productive, and according to Wood, brought him a comfortable ſubſiſtance, during an impriſonment of ſeveral years, and maintained him after his enlargement until the reſtoration, when Charles the ſecond conferred upon him the place of hiſtoriographer royal, which was created expreſsly in his favour. He died in 1666, and was buried in the temple church, where a monument was erected to his memory, with an inſcription partly compoſed by himſelf, deſcriptive * of his chequered life.

His writings were as multifarious and chequered as his life, and ſo numerous that the bare catalogue fills nearly three pages in the Athenæ Oxonienſes. According to Anthony Wood, "he had a ſingular command of his pen, whether in "proſe or verſe, and was well read in modern hiſtories, eſpecially in the hiſtory "of the countries wherein he had travelled, and had a parabolical and alluſive "fancy according to his motto "ſeneſco non ſegneſco." Of all his numerous writings, his familiar letters alone are known to poſterity, and have paſſed through many editions; they are recommended no leſs by their native ſprightlineſs, than by the hiſtorical information which they contain †.

The church of Landeilo Creſſeney is a large handſome gothic building with a body and tower of ſtone, and a high ſpire covered with ſhingles, which forms a ſtriking object from every part of the ſurrounding country. About twelve years ago this ſpire was ſtruck with lightning in the middle of the night; a man in the vicinity of White Caſtle firſt ſaw the blaze, and haſtening to Landeilo rouſed the family, who were buried in ſleep, but were timely awakened to aſſiſt in extinguiſhing the conflagration.

The

* "Jacobus Howell Cambro Britannus, Regius Hiſ-
"toriographus in Angliâ primus, qui poſt varias pe-
"regrinationes tandem naturæ curſum peregit, ſatur
"annorum & famæ, domi foriſque huc uſque erra-
"ticus, hic fixus 1666."

† See Howell's familiar letters, paſſim; Wood's Athenæ Oxonienſes, vol. 2. p. 381; and Biographia Britannica, art. James Howell.

The family of Powell were conſiderable benefactors to the pariſh of Landeilo; among their charities are the following; a free ſchool for the whole pariſh, the maſter of which has a houſe and garden, ten acres of land, and a ſalary of £. 30 per annum; an eſtate that now rents for £. 20, but will ſoon be raiſed to £. 30, for apprenticing boys and girls; £. 12 a year to be diſtributed in bread to the pariſhes of Landeilo and Tregaer; £. 20 per annum were alſo left by Mr. Williams of this pariſh, to be given annually to twenty perſons who do not receive alms.

Mr. Lewis pointed out to me, in the midſt of an adjoining field, which is part of a farm belonging to the duke of Beaufort, called the Park, the ſite of Old Court, formerly the reſidence of the celebrated ſir David Gam, who being ſent to reconnoitre the French before the battle of Agincourt, ſaid to Henry the fifth, "An't pleaſe you my liege they are enough to be killed, enough to run away, and enough to be taken priſoners." "King Henry," adds the Cambrian hiſtorian, in relating this adventure, "was well pleaſed and much encouraged by this reſolute and undaunted anſwer of ſir David's, whoſe tongue did not expreſs more valour than his hands performed. For in the heat of battle, the king's perſon being in danger, ſir David charged the enemy with that eagerneſs and maſculine bravery, that they were glad to give ground, and ſo ſecured the king, though with the loſs of much blood and alſo his life, himſelf and his ſon-in-law Roger Vaughan, and his kinſman Walter Llwyd of Brecknock having received their mortal wounds in that encounter. When the king heard of their condition, how that they were paſt all hopes of recovery, he came to them, and in recompence of their good ſervices, knighted them all three in the field, where they ſoon after died; and ſo ended the life, but not the fame of the ſignally valiant ſir David Gam *."

Many accounts are related of the numerous progeny begotten by this valourous knight, but the tradition of this place out-herods Herod; it is aſſerted that his children formed a line reaching from his houſe to the church: from Gladys, one of theſe children, the dukes of Beaufort and the earls of Pembroke † are deſcended.

* Powell's Hiſtory of Wales, p. 322, 323.

† See the chapter on Abergavenny.

ſcended. This farm contains upwards of 200 acres, and was formerly the red deer park belonging to Raglan caſtle.

About a mile to the ſouth of the high road leading from Landeilo Creſſeney to Monmouth, is a farm vulgarly called Parker's Due, a corruption, as the Rev. William Rogers of Perthîr informs me, of Parc 'ras Dieu, the park belonging to the abbey of Grace Dieu. It is the ſite of the original lodge, of which ſome traces are apparent in a few fragments of hewn ſtone walls adjoining to the dairy. From the farm the remains of a fine avenue of ancient elms lead to the left bank of the Trothy, on the other ſide of which, at a little diſtance, ſtand the ruins of the abbey, in a ſequeſtered ſituation, in the midſt of fertile meadows. Theſe ruins are extremely inſignificant, conſiſting only of part of a barn and a few detached fragments of walls. Leland juſtly deſcribes it as ſurrounded by good paſtures *, for the adjacent meadows on the banks of the Trothy are among the richeſt in Monmouthſhire, and are let at three guineas an acre. The circumjacent country abounds with orchards which yield excellent cider; thoſe belonging to the farm were formerly ſo numerous as to occaſion a common ſaying, that an apple from each tree would produce a hogſhead of cider.

According to Dugdale Grace Dieu was a ſmall Ciſtercian abbey, founded in 1229 by John of Monmouth, on Trody, ripa dextra, two miles from Monmouth, W. N. W. to the honour of the Virgin Mary, but was wholly deſtroyed by the Welſh in 1233. It was, however, afterwards partly rebuilt, for at the diſſolution it contained two monks, and was valued at £. 26. 1 s. 4 d. per annum. The ſite was granted, 37 of Henry 8, to Thomas Herbert and William Bretton †. Mr. Lorimer poſſeſſes the ancient ſeal of this abbey, which bears the figure of an abbot, and the inſcription SIGILLVM ABBATIS DE GRATIA DEI ET CONVENT:

* "Grace of Dew, an abbey of White Monkes ſtonding in a wood, and having a rille running by hit. Veri good paſtures be about this place. It ſtondith betwixt Wiſk and Raglande, iii miles from Cairwiſk, and iiii from Raglande." Itin. vol. 5, p. 2.

† Dugdale, Monaſticon.—Tanner.

CHAPTER 31.

Monmouth.—Charter.—Population.—Monmouth Caps.—Free School.—Church of St. Mary.—Ancient Priory.—Study of Geoffrey of Monmouth.—Obſervations on his Hiſtory.—Church of St. Thomas.—Chippenham Meadow.—Kymin.—View from the Pavilion.

MONMOUTH, the capital of the county, ſtands near the conflux of the Wy and Monnow, and from that ſituation derives its name *. The poſition is delightful; it is wholly ſurrounded by gentle hills and ſwelling eminences, moſtly covered from their baſes to their ſummits with rich woods, or laid out in fields of corn and paſture.

The views of the town from the environs are ſingularly diverſified; from ſome parts it appears as if ſeated wholly in a plain; to the weſt, on the other ſide of the Monnow, and from ſome level meadows called Tibb's farm, it ſeems perched on the precipitous and ſemicircular ridge, which forms the left bank of the river. In one point of view, near a picturesque bridge over the Monnow, the ſcene † is peculiarly wild and romantic; the ſpire of the church and the remains of the priory are almoſt the only objects which riſe above the thick mantle of wood. The town preſents itſelf from the banks of the Wy with a very different aſpect; the houſes riſe on the ſides of a hill, like the ſeats of an amphitheatre, with the elevated ſpire of the church towering in the midſt, and the eminence crowned by the caſtle houſe.

A broad

* It is called in Welſh ſometimes Aberfyno, which has the ſame ſignification as the Engliſh name; but more commonly Trefynwy, or a town on the Monnow and Wy.

† See the annexed engraving.

S.r Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W. Byrne Sculp.t

VIEW OF MONMOUTH.

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A broad and handſome ſtreet leads from the bridge over the Monnow to the market place, which is ornamented with a new town hall, built on pillars, forming a handſome colonnade. Over the front is a niche containing a ſtatue of Henry the fifth, the glory of Monmouth, in an awkward attitude, with an inſcription commemorating his birth. From the market place a lane goes to the caſtle, and to the banks of the Monnow; a narrow ſtreet leads towards St. Mary's church, from whence it turns to the Wy, where a ſtone bridge of ſeveral arches is thrown acroſs the river. From the church a range of detached houſes, appearing like villas, forming White Croſs and Monks' ſtreet, ſkirts the Hereford road, and overlooks the rich meadows watered by the limpid and meandring Monnow. At a little diſtance from the extremity of this range ſtands the county jail, a ſtone building of maſſive ſtrength, impending over the Monnow, which well deſerves to be viſited by the traveller, for the commodious diſtribution of the whole, the airineſs of the apartments, the propriety of its regulations, and the ſtrict attention paid to the cleanlineſs and morals of the priſoners. A delightful walk bends alſo from Monks' ſtreet, along the banks of the Monnow to the iron works of Partridge and company.

Monmouth is a borough and corporate town, governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, and common-council men. The earlieſt charter in the archives of the duchy is dated in 1549; it was granted by Edward the ſixth, "to the burgeſſes of his būrg and town of Monmouth, in the marches of Wales, and within his duchy of Lancaſter," and confirms various franchiſes and privileges given by Henry the eighth, and the power of annually electing a mayor and two bailiffs. Monmouth firſt ſent a member to parliament in the 27 Henry 8; in 1680 the right of election was declared to belong to the burgeſſes inhabitants, in conjunction with the burgeſſes inhabitants of the towns of Newport and Uſk.

Monmouth contains 600 houſes; the average number of births in a year is between 70 and 80, and of burials 70; the population amounts to about 2,600 ſouls.

There are no manufactures, excepting the iron works of Partridge and company;

pany; the inhabitants are principally ſupported by the navigation of the Wy, the trade with Hereford and Briſtol, the ſupply of the neighbouring diſtricts with various kinds of ſhop goods, and the influx of company. Among the articles brought down the river, which give employment to many of the inhabitants, bark muſt not be omitted; it is conveyed in large quantities from the foreſts of the Upper Wy, and landed on the banks, where, after being pared and cleanſed, it is ſent for exportation to Chepſtow. I obſerved on the ſide of the river numerous piles of this commodity, as large as hay-ricks, from fifty to one hundred tons; and noticed with pleaſure the expedition and facility with which the operations of cleanſing and piling are performed.

Caps once formed a conſiderable branch of trade in Monmouth. In the days of Henry the fifth, and in ſubſequent times, Monmouth caps were much eſteemed. Fluellen, in Shakſpeare's Henry the fifth, alluding to this faſhion, addreſſes the king: "If your majeſties is remember'd of it, the Welſhmen did goot ſervice in a garden where leeks did grow, wearing leeks in their *Monmouth* caps." From an old ballad of the Caps, printed in the Antidote againſt Melancholy, it appears they were particularly worn by ſoldiers:

"The ſoldiers that the *Monmouth* wear,
"On caſtles' tops their enſigns rear*."

Fuller alſo in his Worthies gives a curious account of the Monmouth caps, and of the number of perſons employed in the manufacture †.

A free

* Quoted in Malone's Shakſpeare, act iv. ſc. 7.

† "Theſe were the moſt ancient, general, warm and profitable coverings of men's heads in this iſland. It is worth our pains to obſerve the tenderneſs of our kings to preſerve the trade of cap making, and what long and ſtrong ſtruggling our ſtate had to keep up the uſing thereof, ſo many thouſands of people being maintained thereby in the land, eſpecially before the invention of fulling-mills, all caps before that time being wrought, beaten, and thickened by the hands and feet of men, till thoſe mills, as they eaſed many of their labour, outed more of their livelihood. Capping anciently ſet fifteen diſtinct callings on work, as they are reckoned up in the ſtatute: 1. carders, 2. ſpinners, 3. knitters, 4. parters of wool, 5. forſers, 6. thickers, 7. dreſſers, 8. walkers, 9. dyers, 10. battellers, 11. ſhearers, 12. preſſers, 13. edgers, 14. liners, 15. band makers, and other exerciſes. No wonder then that ſo many ſtatutes were enacted in parliament to encourage this handicraft." After enumerating ſeveral acts of parliament paſſed in the reigns of Edward the fourth, Henry the eighth, and Eliſabeth, for the purpoſe of encouraging their wear, he adds, "Laſtly, to keep up the uſage of caps, it was enacted in the 13 of queen Eliz. cap. 19, that they ſhould be worn by all perſons (ſome of worſhip and quality excepted) on ſabboth and holydays, on the pain of forfeiting ten groats for omiſſion thereof."

"But

PLAN OF MONMOUTH
MONNOW RIVER
Chippenham Meadow
Monnow Street
Castle Hill
Tibbs Bridge
Quay
Dixon Gate
to Hadnor
to Gloucester
to Abergavenny
from Chepstow
from Ulk
Chains

A free ſchool was founded at Monmouth in the reign of James the firſt, by William Jones, haberdaſher, who acquired a conſiderable fortune by his own induſtry. The tradition of the town gives a ſingular ſtory of its eſtabliſhment: he was a native of Newland in Gloceſterſhire, but paſſed the early part of his life in a menial capacity at Monmouth; from this ſituation he became ſhop boy to a merchant in London, where his acuteneſs procured his admiſſion to the compting houſe, and he performed the office of clerk with ſuch diligence, ſkill, and fidelity, that he was employed by his maſter as a factor abroad, and afterwards taken into partnerſhip. Having raiſed an ample fortune, he quitted London, returned to Newland under the appearance of great poverty, and made an application to the pariſh: being tauntingly adviſed to ſeek relief at Monmouth, where he had lived at ſervice, and would find perſons diſpoſed to aſſiſt him, had he conducted himſelf with propriety, he repaired thither, and experienced the charity of ſeveral inhabitants. In gratitude for this reception, he founded a free ſchool on a liberal eſtabliſhment; to the maſter, a houſe with a ſalary of £.90 a year; to the uſher, a ſalary of £.45 a year with a houſe; and to a lecturer, for the purpoſe of inſpecting the alms houſes, reading prayers, and preaching a weekly ſermon, an excellent houſe and garden, with a ſalary of £.105 a year. He alſo built alms houſes for twenty poor people, leaving to each 3*s.* 6*d.* a week *. The portrait of the founder, habited in the coſtume of the age of James the firſt, with an inſcription, "Walter William Jones, haberdaſher and merchant of London, &c." is preſerved in the ſchool room. The ſchool, at preſent, enjoys a high reputation under the care of the Rev. John Powell, a member of the univerſity of Oxford.

The

"But it ſeems nothing but hats would fit the heads (or humours rather) of the Engliſh, as fancied by them fitter to fence their fair faces from the injury of wind and weather, ſo that the 39 of queen Elizabeth this ſtatute was repealed. Yea, the cap accounted by the Romans an emblem of liberty, is eſteemed by the Engliſh (except falconers and hunters) a badge of ſervitude, though very uſeful in themſelves, and the enſign of conſtancy, becauſe not diſcompoſed, but retaining their faſhion, in what form ſoever they be crouded.

"The beſt caps were formerly made at Monmouth, where the capper's chapel doth ſtill remain, being better carved and gilded than any other part of the church. But on the occaſion of a great plague happening in this town, the trade was ſome years ſince removed hence to Beaudly in Worceſterſhire, yet ſo that they are called Monmouth caps unto this day. Thus this town retains, though not the profit, the credit of capping, and ſeeing the child keeps the mother's name, there is ſome hope in due time ſhe may return to her." Fuller's Worthies, art. Monmouthſhire.

* Communicated by the Rev. Thomas Proſſer the lecturer.

The church of the priory occupied the ſite of St. Mary's, the preſent pariſh church, and about ſixty years ago was partly taken down and re-conſtructed. The tower and lower part of the ſpire are the only remains of the ancient edifice, which was highly venerable for its antiquity, and from a pointed arch in the belfry, and the ornamented weſt window appears to have been built in the gothic ſtyle of architecture. The preſent edifice is of hewn ſtone, and the tapering ſpire, nearly 200 feet in height, forms a beautiful and conſpicuous object, ſtriking from its loftineſs and elegance. The body of the church is extremely light and well proportioned; the range of columns which ſeparate the nave and the aiſle, and ſupport a ſtrait entablature, have a pleaſing effect.

The traveller who is fond of proſpects will aſcend the tower, from whence he will enjoy a ſingular bird's eye view of Monmouth, and the environs, watered by the Wy, the Monnow, and the Trothy; from this central poſition he will likewiſe diſcriminate the circular range of hills, whoſe undulating outline and rich mantle of foreſts, form a pleaſing back ground from every part of the rich vale, in which the town is ſituated.

To the north of St. Mary's church are the remains of an alien Benedictine priory of black monks, dedicated to St. Mary, which was founded in the reign of Henry the firſt, by Wihenoc, lord of Monmouth, and was a cell to the monaſtery of St. Florence, near Salmur in Anjou. At the diſſolution, it was valued at £.56. 1*s.* 11*d.* Richard Taltbuſh, the laſt prior, received a penſion of £.9*. In the 4th of Philip and Mary, the ſite was granted to Richard Price and Thomas Perry.

In the reign of Queen Eliſabeth, three fourths of the great tythes belonged to ſir Charles Somerſet, of Troy houſe, knight, and one fourth to Mrs. Joan Rice, as her widow's jointure†. All the great tythes, and all the glebe land, except the houſe and orchard, now belong to the duke of Beaufort. In the beginning of this century, the priory houſe was occupied by Mr. Benedictus Williams, a Roman catholic; he ſold it to Mr. William Adams, the father of William Adams Williams, eſq. who married the heireſs of Langibby, to whom it now belongs.

Tradition

* Willis's Abbies, vol. 2. p. 142.

† Communication by the Rev. Duncombe Davis, from the regiſtery of the conſiſtory court of the dioceſe of Hereford.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

REMAINS OF THE PRIORY AT MONMOUTH & GEOFFREY OF MONMOUTH'S STUDY.

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Tradition ſtill points out a ſmall apartment of the priory as the library of Geoffrey of Monmouth; it bears in the ceiling and windows remains of former magnificence, but is much more modern than the age of Geoffrey: it is now converted into a ſchool room. Although the century in which Geoffrey flouriſhed is known, yet neither his family, the time of his birth, nor the place of his education is aſcertained; we are only informed that he was born in this town, probably educated in the monaſtery, became archdeacon of Monmouth, and was conſecrated biſhop of St. Aſaph in 1152. By ſome he is called a monk of the Dominican order, but according to Leland, without ſufficient authority; by others he is ſtyled a cardinal, but has no more claim to that dignity than his heroes have to the actions which he makes them perform.

He wrote a treatiſe on the holy ſacrament, and ſome miſcellaneous verſes on Merlin; yet neither of theſe performances would have reſcued his name from oblivion, had not chance made him the tranſlator of a Britiſh Hiſtory, preſented to him in the original language, by Walter, archdeacon of Oxford*.

This hiſtory has occaſioned a long controverſy, and divided the learned world as much as any other work ever given to the public: by ſome it has been treated as a forgery impoſed upon the world by Geoffrey himſelf; by others, the ground work is conſidered as true, although the hiſtory, like moſt monkiſh writings, is mixed with childiſh fables and legendary tales. Thompſon, the tranſlator of the Britiſh Hiſtory, has written an elaborate vindication of the work, and defends Geoffrey with great ſkill and learning; but after refuting the charge of forgery, he has failed in eſtabliſhing it as an hiſtorical performance; for he himſelf invalidates its authority by acknowledging, that it was only ſuch an irregular account as the Britains were able to preſerve in thoſe times of deſtruction and confuſion; beſides ſome other romantic tales, which indeed might be traditions among the Welſh, and ſuch as Geoffrey might think entertaining ſtories for the credulity of the times†.

We have, however, no need of any other arguments than the confeſſion of Geoffrey himſelf, who acknowledges that the Hiſtory of Britain was not *wholly* a tranſlation

* Brut y Breninodd, or the Chronicle of the Kings of Britain. † Preface, p. xxxvii. lxvii.

tranſlation of the Welſh manuſcript; he avows that he added ſeveral parts, particularly Merlin's prophecies, and inſerted ſome circumſtances "which he had heard from that moſt learned hiſtorian, Walter archdeacon of Oxford."

The controverſy is at length finally decided, and the beſt Welſh critics allow, that Geoffrey's work was a vitiated tranſlation of the Hiſtory of the Britiſh kings, written by Tyſſilio, or St. Teliau, biſhop of St. Aſaph, who flouriſhed in the ſeventh century. Geoffrey in his work omitted many parts, made conſiderable alterations, additions, and interpolations, latiniſed many of the Britiſh appellations, and in the opinion of a learned Welſhman, murdered Tyſſilio*; we may therefore conclude, that Geoffrey ought to be no more cited as hiſtorical authority than Amadis de Gaul, or the Seven Champions of Chriſtendom.

But whatever opinion may be entertained, in regard to its authenticity, Geoffrey's Britiſh Hiſtory forms a new epoch in the literature of this country; and next to the Hiſtory of Charlemagne, by Turpin, probably written in the eleventh century, was the firſt production which introduced that ſpecies of compoſition called romance.

The work of Geoffrey is extremely entertaining, and his fables have been frequently clothed in rhyme: in the thirteenth century, Robert, a monk of the abbey of Gloceſter, wrote an hiſtory of England in verſe, in the Alexandrian meaſure, from Brutus to the reign of Edward the firſt. Warton juſtly obſerves, in his hiſtory of Engliſh poetry, "that the tales have often a more poetical air in Jeffery's proſe than in this rhyming chronicle, which is totally deſtitute of art or imagination, and from its obſolete language, ſcarcely intelligible." This hiſtorical romance, however, was not only verſified by monkiſh writers, but ſupplied ſome of our beſt poets with materials for their ſublime compoſitions. Spencer, in the ſecond book of his Faerie Queene, has given,

"A chronicle of Briton kings,
"From Brute to Arthur's rayne;"

In which he adorns the genealogy with poetical images, and introduces it with a ſublime addreſs to queen Eliſabeth, who was proud of tracing her deſcent from the Britiſh line:

Thy

* Letter from Lewis Morris to Edward Richard. Cambrian Regiſter for 1795, p. 347.

" Thy name, O ſoveraine Queene, thy realme and race,
" From this renowmed prince derived arre,
" Who mightily upheld that royall mace
" Which now thou bear'ſt, to thee deſcended farre
" From mighty kings and conquerours in warre,
" Thy fathers and grandfathers of old,
" Whoſe noble deeds above the northerne ſtarre,
" Immortall fame for ever hath enrold;
" As in that *old man's booke* they were in order told."

In this hiſtorical romance is alſo to be found, the affecting hiſtory of Leir king of Britain, the eleventh in ſucceſſion after Brutus, who divided his kingdom between Gonorilla and Regan his two elder daughters, and diſinherited his youngeſt daughter Cordeilla. Being ungratefully treated by his elder daughters, he was reſtored to the crown by Cordeilla, who eſpouſed Aganippus king of the Franks *. From this account the divine bard of Avon ſelected his incomparable tragedy of king Lear; but improved the pathos by making the death of Cordeilla (which name he ſoftened after the example of Spenſer into Cordelia) precede that of Lear, while in the original ſtory, the aged father is reſtored to his kingdom, and ſurvived by Cordeilla.

Milton ſeems to have been particularly fond of Geoffrey's tales, to which he was indebted for the beautiful fiction of Sabrina in the maſk of Comus. In his youth he even formed the deſign of making the early period of the Britiſh hiſtory, from Brutus to Arthur, the ſubject of an epic poem†. The poetical language of

* Book ii. chap. xi. xii. xiii. Shakſpeare probably took the firſt hint of the tragedy of king Lear from Spenſer's Faerie Queene, who in the thirteenth canto of the ſecond book, gives from Geoffrey a brief account of king Leir. He might have conſulted a tranſlation of Geoffrey of Monmouth, but he was principally indebted to Hollingſhed, who tranſcribed it from Geoffrey's work, and alſo the " Trew Chro-" nicle Hiſtory of king Leir and his three daughters, " Gonerill, Ragan and Cordella," printed in 1605; but all theſe authors have copied the original hiſtory. Tate has followed their example, altered Shakſpeare's tragedy according to the ſtory, and reſtored Lear to his kingdom, and Cordelia to life. This alteration was alſo adopted by Garrick, and has been ſince uniformly followed, but according to the opinion of Addiſon, the tragedy has loſt half its beauty. See Stevens's Shakſpeare.

† In his Epitaphium Damonis he ſays,

" Ite domum impaſti, domino jam non vacat, agni,
" Ipſe ego Dardanias Rutupina per æquora puppes
" Dicam, et Pandraſidos regnum vetus Imogeniæ
" Brenumque Arviragumque duces priſcumque Be-
" linum,
" Et tandem armoricos Britonum ſub lege colonos;
" Tu gravidam Arturo fatali fraude Iögernem,
" Mendaces vultus, aſſumptaque Gorloïs arma
" Merlini dolus."

Poems upon ſeveral Occaſions.

of Milton was peculiarly ſuited to this ſpecies of romance; he would have exalted the legends of Geoffrey, and enriched with the fineſt imagery the incantations and prophecies of Merlin, the heroic deeds of Vortimer, Aurelius, and Uther Pendragon;

" and what reſounds,
" In fable or romance, of Uther's ſon,
" Begirt with Britiſh and Armoric knights."

But we have no reaſon to regret that in his more mature age he relinquiſhed this deſign, and compoſed an epic poem on a ſtill more ſublime plan:

" Of man's firſt diſobedience, and the fruit
" Of that forbidden tree, whoſe mortal taſte
" Brought death into the world, and all our woe,
" With loſs of Eden."——

Dryden compoſed a dramatic opera on the ſubject of king Arthur, or the Britiſh Worthy, whom he has finely deſcribed;

" in battle brave
" But ſtill ſerene in all the ſtormy war,
" Like heaven above the clouds; and after fight
" As merciful and kind to vanquiſh'd foe
" As a forgiving God."

He intended alſo to write an epic poem, either on the ſubject of Arthur, or of the Black Prince. This great author, who poſſeſſed the true taſte of poetry, and excelled in " that fairy kind of writing which depends upon the force of imagination," propoſed to introduce as ſupernatural agents, the guardian angels of kingdoms, or tutelary genii, and thus accommodate to chriſtian uſe the philoſophy of Plato.

At one period of his life, Pope reſolved to undertake what Milton and Dryden relinquiſhed. He even drew a plan of an epic poem on the ſubject of Brutus and the eſtabliſhment of the Britiſh monarchy, which is publiſhed by Ruffhead; it is extenſive and diverſified, and capable of great effect if wrought with fancy, ſpirit, and dignity. Although the poetical powers of Pope were inferior to thoſe of Milton and Dryden; yet he has given evident proofs that he poſſeſſed

R.H. del.t

W.B. direxit

CHURCH OF St THOMAS, AND MONNOW BRIDGE, MONMOUTH.

Published March 1 1800 by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W.m Byrne sculp.t

INSIDE OF S.t THOMAS'S CHURCH.

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the genius of invention, by the beautiful machinery of the ſylphs and gnomes in the Rape of the Lock. I feel much regret that Dryden or Pope did not proceed in their intended work, as we have no epic poem in our language on any great ſubject of national hiſtory, except the miſerable productions of Blackmore *.

The ſuburbs of Monmouth ſtretch beyond the Monnow, and occupy the ſite of what was probably the Britiſh town during the Saxon æra. Near the bridge of the Monnow ſtands the ancient church of St. Thomas; the ſimplicity of its form, the circular ſhape of the doorways and of the arch ſeparating the nave from the chancel, and the ſtyle of their ornaments, which bear a Saxon character, ſeem to indicate that it was conſtructed before the conqueſt. The weſtern window, as well as ſome of the other apertures, which are ornamented gothic, have been evidently formed ſince the original foundation †. This church, which is in the dioceſe of Landaff, is now a chapel of eaſe to St. Mary's, and divine ſervice is performed in it every Tueſday.

The walks in the vicinity of Monmouth are extremely pleaſant, particularly Chippenham meadow, which is a general rendezvous for company at the cloſe of ſummer evenings; it is a flat oval plain, incloſed between the Wy, the Monnow, and the ſouth ſide of the town; at the ſouth-eaſtern extremity, the Monnow falls into the Wy, beneath a group of fine elms, which riſe near the banks of the Trothy. The meadow is ſkirted by gentle eminences, feathered with underwood, or clothed with hanging groves of oak and elm; theſe are ſurmounted by higher ridges of hills and mountains, all mantled with wood, except the Craig y Dorth, the Kymin, and the Trelech hills. The general poſition of the ſurrounding eminences and diſtant hills, may be ſeen from the annexed ſketch, taken by Mr. Owen Tudor, bookſeller at Monmouth.

The proſpects from the hills in the vicinity differ from thoſe to which I had hitherto been accuſtomed in Monmouthſhire; the country appears leſs wild and romantic, the eminences more thickly clothed with wood, the rivers leſs rapid

* Ruffhead's life of Pope, p. 409, 424. Johnſon's life of Pope, p. 125.

† See the annexed views: 1. Of the outſide of the church. 2. Inſide. 3. The elevation of the doors, on the plate which contains the view of the hills in the environs of Monmouth.

rapid and impetuous, and the views partake more of the mild caſt of Engliſh ſcenery. In ſpring, the beauty of the proſpect is conſiderably increaſed by the bloom of the apple trees; from the heights above the numerous orchards appear at ſome diſtance like parterres of flowers, in the midſt of lawns and groves, and the whole country ſpreads beneath like a rich and extenſive garden.

If among theſe views one can be ſelected ſurpaſſing the reſt, it is perhaps that from the ſummit of the Kymin, which riſes from the left bank of the Wy, and is ſituated partly in Monmouthſhire and partly in Gloceſterſhire. On the center of this eminence overhanging the river and town, a pavilion has been recently conſtructed by ſubſcription, to which is carried a walk, gently winding up the acclivity.

The pavilion is a circular edifice, like an embattled tower; it contains two ſtories, of which the lower is a kitchen, and the upper a banqueting apartment, provided with five windows, commanding different views over Monmouthſhire, Gloceſterſhire, and Herefordſhire, backed by the diſtant counties of Worceſter, Salop, Radnor, Brecon, Glamorgan, and Somerſet. I had the pleaſure of dining in this delightful apartment, with a company of the Monmouth corps of volunteers, who aſſembled in celebration of the king's birth day.

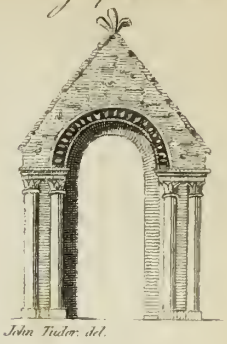
I ſhall not attempt to deſcribe the unbounded expanſe of country which preſents itſelf around and beneath, and embraces a circumference of nearly three hundred miles. The eye ſatiated with the diſtant proſpect, repoſes at length on the near views, dwells on the country immediately beneath and around, is attracted with the pleaſing poſition of Monmouth, here ſeen to ſingular advantage, admires the elegant bend and ſilvery current of the Monnow, gliſtening through meads, in its courſe towards the Wy, and the junction of the two rivers, which form an aſſemblage of beautiful objects.

The level ſummit of the Kymin is crowned with a beautiful wood, called Beaulieu Grove, through which walks are made terminating in ſeats, placed at the edge of abrupt declivities, and preſenting in perſpective, through openings in the trees, portions of the unbounded expanſe ſeen from the pavilion. There are ſix of theſe openings, three of which comprehend perſpective views of Monmouth,

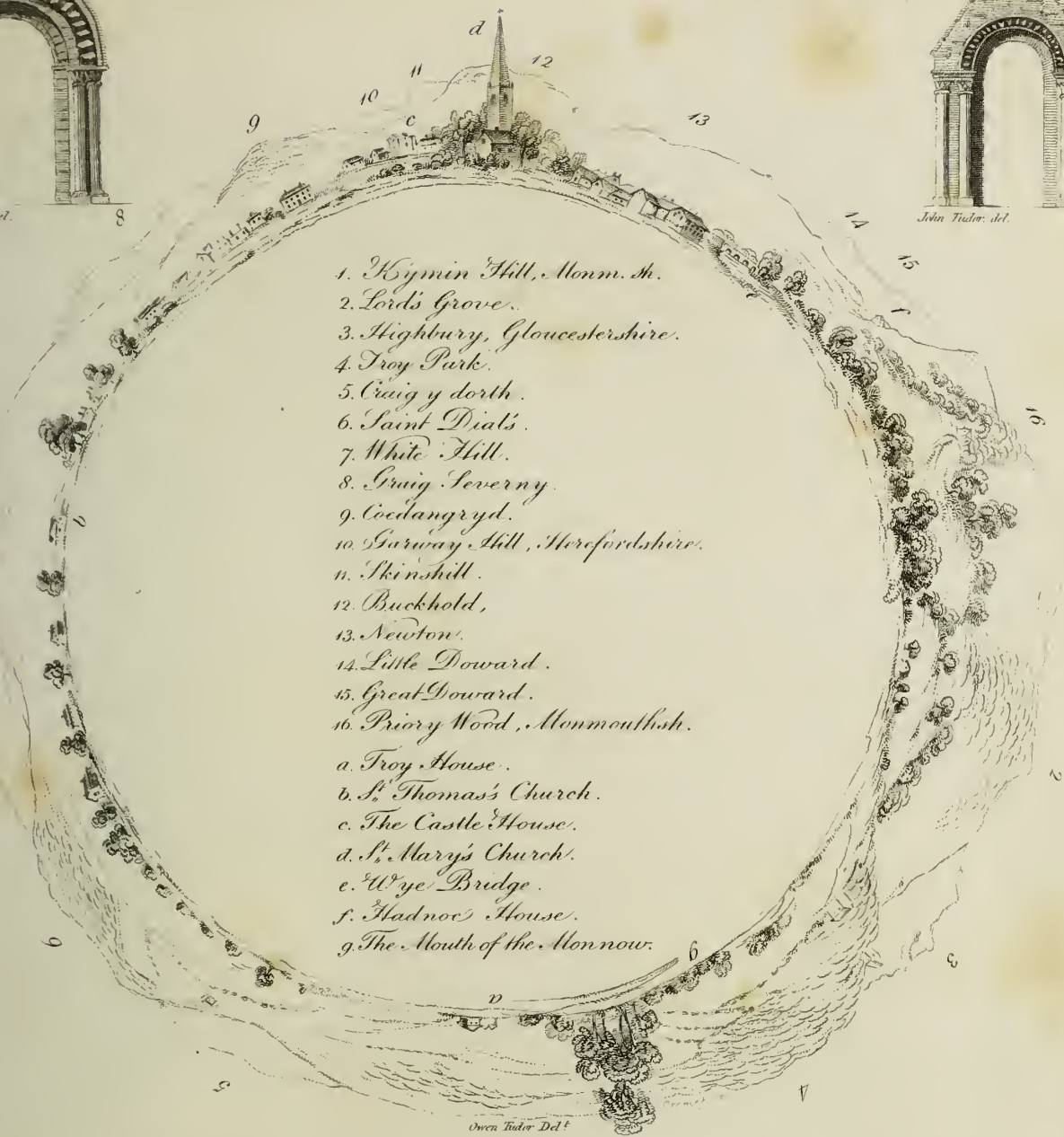
Doorway of St. Thomas's Church.

John Tudor del.

Doorway of the Chancel.



John Tudor. del.



View of the Hills in the Environs of Monmouth.

T. Tudor. del.t

Inside of Monmouth Castle.

muth, ſtretching between the Wy and the Monnow, in different poſitions. At one of theſe ſeats placed on a ledge of impending rocks, I looked down on a hanging wood, clothing the ſides of the declivity, and ſloping gradually to the Wy, which ſweeps in a beautiful curve, from Dixon church to the mouth of the Monnow; the town appears ſeated on its banks, and beyond the luxuriant and undulating ſwells of Monmouthſhire, terminated by the Great and Little Skyrrid, the Black mountains, and the Sugar Loaf, in all the variety of ſublime and contraſted forms *.

* Mr. Heath has publiſhed a deſcriptive account of this pavilion, in which he gives a minute detail of the different objects ſeen from the five windows, and deſcribes the perſpective views from the ſeats in the Beaulieu Grove.

CHAPTER 32.

Monmouth, ancient Bleſtium.—A Saxon Fortreſs.—Ruins of the Caſtle.—Hiſtory.—Proprietors.—Anecdotes of Henry the Fifth before his Acceſſion.

MONMOUTH, or ſome ſpot in the vicinity, is ſuppoſed by Horſley and the beſt informed antiquaries, to be the ſite of a Roman ſtation, the Bleſtium of Antoninus. No Roman antiquities have, however, been found in this town; and the diſcovery of two coins of Conſtantine the Great in 1767, in the garden of the Rev. Mr. Crow, maſter of the free ſchool*, and one of Carauſius, now in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Parry, late mayor of the town, cannot be conſidered as ſufficient to confirm this opinion. The principal argument in its favour, is derived from the coincidence of its poſition with that of Bleſtium in the Itineraries†.

We know from hiſtorical record, that Monmouth was a fortreſs in early times, and one of the ſtrong holds occupied by the Saxons, to maintain their conqueſts between the Severn and the Wy, and prevent the incurſions of the Welſh.

The town appears to have been fortified with walls and a moat, except where it was ſecured by the river. In Leland's time, parts of the dilapidated walls were ſtill remaining, the moat entire, and the four gates ſtanding; which he calls the monk's gate, to the north, the eaſtern gate, the Wy gate, and the Monnow or weſtern gate: at preſent there are no veſtiges of the walls, and the only part of the

* Gough's Camden, vol. 2. p. 483.

† See the introductory chapter on the Roman ſtations and roads.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

MONMOUTH CASTLE, CHURCH, &c.

R.H. del.t W.B. dirx.

BRIDGE OVER THE WYE AT MONMOUTH.

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the moat which can be traced, was pointed out to me by the Rev. Mr. Davis, vicar of St. Mary's, ſtretching from the back of White Croſs ſtreet, to the remains of an ancient gateway, in the ſtreet near the Roſs turnpike, and from thence to the Wy. Of the four gates, mentioned by Leland, that called Monk's gate, which derived its appellation from the adjoining priory, ſtood near the Hereford road, but is now demoliſhed; parts of two round towers which flanked the eaſtern gate, are viſible at the place above mentioned near the Roſs turnpike. I could not diſcover the ſmalleſt veſtiges or even tradition of the ſituation of the Wy gate; but the Monnow gate is ſtill entire, and with the bridge on which it is built, bears the appearance of high antiquity; the circular form of the arches and maſſive ſolidity of the ſtructure, prove it anterior to the conqueſt; it commanded the paſſage of the Monnow, and was a barrier againſt the Welſh.

The ruins of Monmouth caſtle, conſtructed with red grit ſtone, ſtand on the ridge of an eminence overlooking the Monnow and the adjacent meadows, and are ſo much concealed by other buildings, as ſcarcely to be viſible from the ſide of the town; the beſt view of them is from the right bank of the Monnow, where they preſent an appearance of dilapidated grandeur, which recals to memory the times of feudal magnificence. The preſent remains are ſtill conſiderable, but principally covered with tenements, ſtables, and out-houſes. Although the whole roof and parts of the ſide walls are fallen, yet the ſite of two remarkable apartments can be traced with exactneſs; one in which Henry the fifth was born, and the other adjoining to it, which, within the memory of ſeveral inhabitants, was uſed for the aſſizes, and was not leſs than ſixty-three feet in length and forty-ſix in breadth.

The apartment which gave birth to the Gwentonian hero, was an upper ſtory, and the beams that ſupported the floor ſtill project from the ſide walls; it was fifty-eight feet long, twenty-four broad, and was decorated with ornamented gothic windows, of which ſome are ſtill remaining, and ſeem to be of the age of Henry the third. The walls of this part are not leſs than ten feet in thickneſs. About fifty years ago, a conſiderable portion of the ſouthern wall fell down

down with a tremendous craſh, which alarmed the whole town, leaving a breach not leſs than forty feet in length. On the ground floor beneath are three circular arches terminating in chinks, which have a very ancient appearance, as may be ſeen from the inſide view *; at the north-eaſtern angle within a ſtable, is a round tower ſix feet in diameter, which was once a ſtaircaſe leading to the grand apartment.

To the right of the apartment, which gave birth to Henry the fifth, a houſe, tenanted by Mr. Cecil of the Dyffrin, occupies part of the ancient ſite: in the houſe and cellar may be traced veſtiges of the original walls, and their maſſive ſtructure is worthy of particular obſervation; they are from ſix to ten feet in thickneſs, formed of pebbles and mortar, in the manner of Vitruvius, and are ſo cloſely compacted as not to yield in hardneſs to ſtone itſelf.

Camden erroneouſly aſcribes the conſtruction of this edifice to John of Monmouth, in the reign of Henry the third, by whom it was only repaired: ſome antiquaries, in the contrary extreme, attribute it to the Romans. From the general aſpect of the ruins, the caſtle was undoubtedly founded at a very early period, and afterwards conſiderably altered and augmented; the greater part of the doorways and windows are indeed gothic, yet ſome of a circular ſhape bear a Saxon character.

The hiſtory of the caſtle will, perhaps, be a better criterion to aſcertain the æra of its conſtruction.

A caſtle exiſted at Monmouth at a very early period, which retained in ſubjection the neighbouring diſtricts, then included in the county of Hereford; at the time of the Norman conqueſt † it probably belonged to the king; for in Domeſday Book, under Herefordſhire, four caracutes of land, in the caſtle of Monmouth, part of the royal demeſne, were given in cuſtody to William Fitz Baderon, who poſſeſſed two lordſhips in Herefordſhire and twelve in Gloceſterſhire. His ſon William, as well as all his ſucceſſors, were ſurnamed de Monmoth, from

* See the plate containing the view of the environs of Monmouth.

" † In Caſtelio de Monemude habet Rex in dominio IIII Caracutas, Wilhelmus Filius Baderon cuſtodit eas." Domeſday Book, p. 180².

from this caſtle; it continued in the poſſeſſion of his deſcendants till the reign of Henry the third, when John de Monmouth was the proprietor.

During the civil wars which diſtracted his long and weak reign, Monmouth caſtle was occaſionally beſieged and occupied by both parties: in theſe conteſts it ſuffered repeated demolitions, of which one inſtance is recorded by Lambarde. "The citie had once a caſtle in it, where in tyme of Hen. III. Richard th erle marſhal aſſociatinge to him other noblemen, and mouinge warre againſt the kinge, for that he more eſtimed ſtrangers borne, then his natural ſubjects, gave him a ſharpe conflicte and ſlew ſundry of his ſouldiors. Not long after th erle of Glouceſter having forſaken th erle of Leyceſter, took for his ſuccour the ſame caſtle and fortified it; but Symon ſpeedily following, aſſailed, toke, and raiſed it to the ground. *Thus the glorie of Monmouth had cleane periſhed, ne had it pleaſed God longe after in that place to give life to the noble kinge Hen. V.* who, of the ſame, is called Henry of Monmouth *."

In theſe times of civil diſcord, Monmouth caſtle was an object of ſuch conſequence to the royal party, that John de Monmouth having no iſſue male, was induced to reſign the caſtle and honour to prince Edward, and his heirs for ever, in conſideration of certain lands granted for life †.

In

* Lambarde's Dictionary. Leland alſo ſays, under the year 1264, "Abowte this tyme Simon Montfort enterid the caſtle of Monmouth and racid it." Leland, Collect. vol. 1. fol. 661.

† PROPRIETORS OF MONMOUTH CASTLE.

BADERON.
William of Monmouth.
Wihenoc.
Baderon, Temp. H. 2.
Gilbert.
John, d. 1248.
John, d. 1257, reſigned Monmouth to Edward I.

HENRY III.
Edward I.
Edmund Crouchback, b. 1245, d. 1296.
Thomas, beh. 1322.
Henry, d. 1345.
Henry, 1ſt Duke of Lancaſter, d. 1362.
Maud, m. 1. Ralph, ſon of Ralph Lord Stafford; 2. William Duke of Zealand, d. without iſſue.
Blanch = John of Gaunt.
Henry IV.
Henry V.

In 1267, on the ſurrender of prince Edward, Henry the third granted the caſtle of Monmouth, together with many other poſſeſſions, to his younger ſon Edmund Crouchback, earl of Lancaſter, and the grant was confirmed by Edward the firſt in the fifth year of his reign. Edmund left two ſons, Thomas, beheaded for high treaſon, and Henry who obtained the caſtle of Monmouth, and thoſe parts of his father's property not confiſcated on his brother's attainder; he increaſed his poſſeſſions and influence in Wales, by eſpouſing Maud, daughter and heireſs of ſir Patrick Chaworth. He died in 1345; his ſon Henry, before created earl of Derby and Lincoln, ſucceeded to his eſtates and honours, and added ſtill greater dignity to his illuſtrious family; he was the firſt duke of Lancaſter, and the ſecond peer raiſed to the ducal title *. Edward the third, in the twenty-fifth year of his reign, erected the county of Lancaſter into a palatinate, granting to the duke for life regal rights and other privileges, and decreed that the duchy ſhould be governed by its own officers.

His vaſt poſſeſſions were divided between his two daughters, Maud and Blanch; but Maud dying without iſſue, the whole property devolved on John of Ghent or Gaunt, third ſon of Edward the third, and huſband of Blanch. He was created duke of Lancaſter, obtained a grant of the jura regalia in perpetuity for the duchy, and a releaſe of the eſtates forfeited to the crown on the attainder of Thomas.

After the death of Blanch, he eſpouſed Conſtantia daughter of Peter the cruel, king of Caſtile, and in 1386 aſſumed the regal title, which he afterwards reſigned, but was amply indemnified by the marriage of his daughter Catherine with Henry the third, king of Spain, the acquiſition of a conſiderable treaſure †, and the dignity of duke of Aquitain. He died in 1399, and his royal alliances, and great riches, which far exceeded thoſe of any other ſubject, contributed to raiſe his ſon Henry to the throne.

Monmouth

* Edward the Black Prince was the firſt Engliſh duke, under the title of duke of Cornwall.

† "Its ſaid that he had forty-ſeven mules laden with cheſts full of gold, for his ſecond payment; and divers great men of Spaine as pledges for the yearly payment of ſixteen thouſand marks, for his life, and in caſe his wife ſhould ſurvive him, ſhe to have twelve thouſand marks yearly." Dugdale's Baronage, vol. 2. p. 118.

Monmouth caſtle was a favourite reſidence of John of Gaunt and of his ſon Henry of Bolingbroke, afterwards Henry the fourth; but was more highly diſtinguiſhed as the birth-place of the hero of Agincourt, who from that circumſtance was ſtyled Henry of Monmouth.

He was born in 1387, and ſeems to have paſſed his infancy in Monmouthſhire. During the ſhort period which elapſed between his father's baniſhment and acceſſion to the throne, he was educated in the court of his couſin Richard the ſecond, who treated him with the warmeſt marks of affection. According to a contemporary hiſtorian *, the monarch was captivated with his ſpirit and underſtanding, frequently pointed him out, and prophetically obſerved, "We have heard that our England will produce a prince called Henry, who will be renowned for dignity of manners, ſplendour of action, and military ſkill, and we conclude infallibly that this is the Henry thus predicted."

Soon after the acceſſion of his father, Henry ſtudied at Oxford under his uncle cardinal Beaufort, chancellor of that univerſity, and as Stowe affirms, "delighted in ſongs, meeters, and muſical inſtruments †." From Speed we alſo learn, that "he had in great veneration ſuch as excelled in virtue or learning, particularly Thomas Rodban of Merton college, a great aſtronomer, whom he afterwards preferred to the biſhoprick of St. David's; and John Carpenter of Oriel, a learned doctour in theology, whom he advanced to the ſee of Worceſter ‡."

Henry is thus deſcribed by Stowe, on the authority of Thomas de Elmham: "This prince exceeded the meane ſtature of men, he was beautifull of viſage, his necke long, body ſlender and leane, and his bones ſmall; nevertheleſſe he was of marvellous great ſtrength, and paſſing ſwift in running, inſomuch that he with two other of his lords, without hounds, bow, or other engine, would take a wilde bucke or doe in a large parke."

At a very early period he was initiated in the uſe of arms, and before he attained the age of ſixteen, gave, at the memorable battle of Shrewſbury, a noble ſpecimen of heroic intrepidity, which augured his future renown. In the midſt

* Thomas de Elmham, Vita Henrici Quinti, c. 2. † Annales, p. 342. ‡ Speed, chap. 15.

midſt of the battle, the king being beſet by a powerful corps of the enemy, was in imminent danger; young Henry flew to his aſſiſtance, ruſhed into the adverſe ranks, and was wounded dangerouſly in the face with an arrow. Being exhorted by his followers to retire, he refuſed to ſet an example of flight; "Convey me," he exclaimed, "I exhort you, into the midſt of the enemy, that I may ſay to my companions in arms, follow me your leader into the combat; I had rather expoſe myſelf to the danger of fortune, than by flying bring ignominy on the military profeſſion." He then precipitated himſelf into the ranks of the enemy; the rebels were diſperſed, their chief fell in the field of battle, and the king obtained the victory by the means of his ſon *.

He afterwards ſignaliſed himſelf at the head of the army againſt the followers of Owen Glendower, whom he defeated in various encounters, and finally quelled the rebellion of that lawleſs chief. He no leſs diſtinguiſhed himſelf againſt the Scots, made a ſucceſsful inroad into their country, compelled them to offer terms of peace, took hoſtages for their fidelity, and returned to London loaded with booty †.

Theſe repeated ſucceſſes, aided by courteſy and condeſcenſion, increaſed his popularity, and excited the jealouſy of his ſuſpicious father, who excluded him from his counſels, and placed his principal confidence in his other ſons. Being thus reduced to a ſtate of idleneſs, the active ſpirit of the young prince broke out into exceſſes unbecoming his birth and injurious to his reputation ‡; but on his acceſſion to the throne, his conduct proved that theſe exceſſes were the frolics of youth, and not the effects of a vicious mind.

Sudden

* Thomas de Elmham.

† Polydore Virgil, p. 435.

‡ The licentiouſneſs of his conduct has been highly exaggerated; for it has even been ſaid, and hiſtory has recorded the report, "that he ſcrupled not to aſſociate with the moſt diſſolute perſons, and to accompany them in attacking paſſengers in the ſtreets, and deſpoiling them of their goods." But if we conſult contemporary writers, and the early hiſtorians, we ſhall find the fact differently ſtated. Stowe ſeems to have approached nearer the truth, when he obſerves, "of Henry the fifth it is ſaid, "He lived ſomewhat inſolently, inſomuch that whileſt his father lived, being accompanyed with ſome of his young lords and gentlemen, he would waite in diſguiſed array for his own receivers and diſtreſſe them of their money, and ſometimes at ſuch enterpriſes both he and his companions were ſorely beaten: and when his receivers made to him their complaints, that they were robbed in their coming unto him, he would give them diſcharge of ſo much money as they had loſt, and beſides that they ſhould not depart from him without great rewards for their trouble and vexation, eſpecially they ſhould bee rewarded that beſt had reſiſted him and his company, and of whom he had received the greateſt and moſt ſtrokes." Stowe's Chronicle, p. 342.

Sudden and extraordinary converſions from vice to virtue are as uncommon as they are uſually temporary; yet the inſtantaneous tranſition of Henry the fifth from his former licentiouſneſs to a ſober and dignified conduct, is too well authenticated to admit of the ſmalleſt doubt.

The account given by a contemporary writer* of the cauſes which effected this change, is ſo ſimple and natural as to carry internal conviction of truth. During the illneſs of Henry the fourth, the prince attended him with filial affection: as he ſtood near his bed with the prieſt who was preparing the ſacrament, the king, whoſe eyes were dim with age, enquired what the prieſt was doing; "ſir," replied the prince, "he has juſt conſecrated the body of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; I beſeech you devoutly to adore him, under whom kings reign, and princes have dominion." The king inſtantly lifted up his hands, and praying fervently, ſaid, "my ſon approach and kiſs me;" and when he had kiſſed him, he with a trembling voice, which announced his approaching diſſolution, ſaid, "the bleſſing, my ſon, which Iſaac gave to his ſon Jacob, fall upon you, and may God grant you a good and proſperous reign." The prince, obſerving his father in the agonies of death, retired with grief and anguiſh into a ſmall chapel; throwing himſelf on his knees, and ſtriking his breaſt, with tears of contrition he acknowledged his paſt miſconduct, declared his reſolution of future amendment, and called upon God to pardon his offences.

In this manner he paſſed the whole day, and at night repaired ſecretly to a prieſt, remarkable for his ſanctity, confeſſed his ſins, received abſolution, and, to uſe the figurative language of the biographer, returned to his palace, having thrown off the garment of vice, and put on the robe of righteouſneſs †. With a view

* Thomas de Elmham.

† Elmham, Vita Henrici Quinti, c. 7. p. 25. "Exutus viciorum diploide, virtutum clamide redit decentur ornatus."

Henry the fifth bore a beacon or a creſſet light burning for one of his badges; the meaning of which is thus explained in a manuſcript account of the arms and badges of the kings of England. "Henry V. by reaſon of his diſſolute life in the tyme of his father's reigne, when after the death of the ſayd king his father, he was anoynted and crowned monarch of this realme, betook unto himſelf for his badge or cognizance, a creſcet light burnynge, ſhewinge thereby that although his vertuous and good parts had been formerly

view to ſtrengthen his reſolution, he neither eat or drank, at a ſumptuous entertainment which he gave in Weſtminſter hall, ſoon after his coronation, and continued his faſt three days and nights; during which time he never retired to reſt, but with faſting, vigils, and prayers, fervently implored the divine aſſiſtance in the government of his kingdom *.

After the ceremony of his coronation, he received the ſacrament with ſo much devotion and humility, that ſeveral of the ſpectators were affected even unto tears †. Nor was his reſolution of amendment a tranſitory fit of enthuſiaſm; his repentance produced a ſuitable practice, and his conduct did not belie his profeſſions.

The firſt public proof which he gave of this change in his ſentiments and behaviour, was the diſmiſſion of his diſſolute companions. "After his coronation," ſays Stowe, "he called unto him all thoſe young lords and gentlemen, that were the followers of his young acts, to every one of whom he gave rich and bounteous gifts, and then commanded that as many as would change their manners as hee intended to doe, ſhould abide with him in his court, and to all that would perſevere in their former light converſation, hee gave expreſſe commandment, upon paine of their heads, never after that day to come into his preſence ‡."

Henry the fifth is uſually celebrated only for his military proweſs, while the milder

formerly obſcured, and lay as a dead cofe wanting light to kindle it, by reaſon of tender yeares and evell company, that notwithſtanding he beinge now come to his perfecter yeares and riper underſtandinge, had ſhaken off his evell counſellors, and being now in his high imperial throne, that his vertues, which before had layne dead, ſhould now, by his righteous raigne, ſhyne as the light of *creſcet*, which is no ordinary ſight; meaning alſo, that he ſhould be a light and guide to his people to follow him in all vertue and honour."

Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, vol. 1. p. 69.

* Theſe circumſtances are finely repreſented by the divine bard, who has delineated his character with no leſs hiſtorical truth than poetical enthuſiaſm:

"The courſes of his youth promis'd it not:
"The breath no ſooner left his father's body,
"But that his wildneſs, mortified in him,
"Seem'd to die too: yea, at that very moment,
"Conſideration like an angel came,
"And whipp'd the offending Adam out of him;
"Leaving his body as a paradiſe,
"To envelop, and contain celeſtial ſpirits.
"Never was ſuch a ſudden ſcholar made;
"Never came reformation in a flood,
"With ſuch a heady current, ſcouring faults,
"Nor ever Hydra-headed wilfulneſs,
"So ſoon did loſe his ſeat and all at once
"As in this king."

Shakſpeare, king Henry V.

† Elmham, chap. 11.

‡ Stowe's Hiſtory of Britain, p. 345.

milder qualities of juſtice and humanity, for which he was no leſs conſpicuous, are loſt in the ſplendour of his victorious career. He condemned the depoſition and impriſonment of Richard, and treated all concerned in his murder as traitors; as an atonement for his father's crimes, and to evince his own reſpect to Richard's memory, he ordered his corpſe to be magnificently interred in Weſtminſter abbey, among his royal anceſtors; and attended the funeral, declaring "that he mourned as truly for him as if he had been his natural father."

Although conſcious that Edmund earl of March was rightful heir to the crown, yet he releaſed him from his confinement, and treated him with ſo much kindneſs, that the young nobleman forgot his prior title, and gratefully ſerved his royal benefactor with inviolable attachment. Compaſſionating the misfortunes of the Percys, he recalled the ſon and heir of Hotſpur from Scotland, and reinveſted him with the honours and eſtate of his anceſtors *.

He was no leſs remarkable for juſtice: "Every day after dinner," ſays Speed, "for the ſpace of an houre, his cuſtom was to leane on a cuſhion ſet by his cupbord, and there he himſelfe received petitions of the oppreſſed, which with great equitie he did redreſſe †."

It is needleſs to enlarge on the incidents of his reign, which are ſo well known; I ſhall therefore only conſider him as duke of Lancaſter and lord of Monmouth caſtle ‡. His father created him duke of Lancaſter, which title he bore in conjunction with thoſe of prince of Wales, and duke of Cornwall; he alſo ſevered by act of parliament the duchy from the crown, confirming, in its full latitude, the charter of privileges, granted by Richard the ſecond to John of Gaunt, and decreeing that it ſhould be governed by its own chancery or court.

Henry the fifth enlarged the duchy with the eſtates which he inherited from his

* Hiſtory of England, vol. 2, p. 674.

† Speed, p. 767.

‡ The archives contain a ſingular grant of Henry the fourth, as lord of the manor, to the burgeſſes of Monmouth, "that the brewers of ale there, who were anciently held to pay to the king's anceſtors and progenitors eight gallons of ale at every brewing, in the name of caſtle coule, during the time the king or his heirs were dwelling in the ſaid town, ſhould now pay in lieu thereof 10 *d.* each brewing, except when the king, his heirs, or his councils holding his ſeſſions there, were preſent in the ſaid town, in which caſe the ancient cuſtom of caſtle coule ſhould be obſerved."

his mother Mary, ſiſter and coheireſs of Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford, and obtained an act of parliament that all grants of offices and eſtates ſhould paſs under the ſeal of the duchy.

The duchy of Lancaſter, and the caſtle of Monmouth, as parcel of that duchy, were inherited by Henry the ſixth. Edward the fourth deemed the title and eſtate forfeited by the attainder of Henry the ſixth; and by act of parliament appropriated and united the eſtates to the crown, and annexed the county palatine, which had been governed by ſeparate courts, to the duchy, under the ſame chancery. In the fifth year of his reign he granted the caſtle of Monmouth, in tail male, to William lord Herbert *, afterwards earl of Pembroke; but it again reverted to the crown, and formed as before parcel of the duchy of Lancaſter, which Henry the ſeventh inherited as king. He repealed the act and entail of Edward the fourth, again ſeparated the duchy from the crown, and entailed it on himſelf and his heirs; ſince which period, except during the time of the uſurpation, it has continued in the crown, though under the management of diſtinct officers.

The caſtle, however, together with ſeveral other † poſſeſſions in the county of Monmouth, has been alienated from the duchy and become private property; but at what period this ſeparation took place I cannot aſcertain, after the minuteſt reſearches in the archives. It appears from numerous grants, that the caſtle was parcel of the duchy during the reign of Eliſabeth, and that in the 11th of James 1, it was preſented under a commiſſion as belonging to the duchy ‡.

Before the end of the laſt century, we find it in the poſſeſſion of Henry, the firſt

* Archives, Rot. 4.

† James the firſt granted ſome very extenſive and valuable domains of the duchy, together with divers crown lands, to truſtees, to maintain his ſons prince Henry and prince Charles. James 1, afterwards took large fines for leaſes of duchy eſtates, upon contracts for 60 years; and alſo made grants in fee to all who ſhould become purchaſers upon his terms; ſo that Charles the firſt found the duchy poſſeſſions reduced to little more than the eſtates compriſed in his own ſettlement, and the leaſes for 60 years. Charles the firſt raiſed conſiderable ſums by ſelling the duchy inheritance: no part was preſerved but a few foreſts and parks, the eſtates which went to queen Henrietta in jointure, and thoſe compriſed in the leaſes for 60 years granted by James the firſt. Charles the ſecond made extenſive grants, and ſigned many leaſes for 99 years. William alſo alienated many of thoſe lands which were ſettled on queen Catherine. An act in the firſt of Anne, reſtrained the crown from granting leaſes for more than 31 years.

‡ "Item, we preſent that his majeſtie hath one ancient caſtell called Monmouth caſtell, ſituated within the liberties of the ſaid towne, which is nowe and hath been

firſt duke of Beaufort, as appears from a ſingular anecdote recorded in the Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire. " The marchioneſs of Worceſter was ordered by her grandfather the late duke of Beaufort, to lie in of her firſt child in a houſe lately built within the caſtle of Monmouth, near that ſpot of ground and ſpace of air, where our great hero Henry V. was born *." His illuſtrious deſcendant the duke of Beaufort is the preſent proprietor. The caſtle was once ſurrounded by a moat, of which veſtiges remain to the weſt and ſouth-weſt, in the grounds of Mr. Hughes and Mr. Hopkins, at the bottom of the mound on which the ruins are ſituated.

Within the ſite of the ancient walls, is a handſome edifice of ſtone, called the Caſtle Houſe, built partly from the foundations and remains. According to the date over the door, it was conſtructed in 1673, and is now occupied by Mrs. Eliſabeth Tudor, miſtreſs of the moſt reſpectable ſchool for young ladies in this part of England. The apartments are commodious and well proportioned, and ſeveral ſtuccoed cielings, richly ornamented with wreaths and feſtoons of flowers, are not unworthy of notice. The houſe ſtanding on the brow of the eminence, and in the higheſt part of the town, is a ſtriking object from the ſubjacent grounds.

been for a long time ruinous and in decaye, but by whome it hath byn decayed wee knowe not, nor to what value, in regarde it was before our remember-ment, ſavinge one greate hall which is covered and mayntayned for the judges of the aſſiſe to ſitt in. And for and concerning any demean lands, belonginge to the ſame caſtell, we knowe not of any more ſave only the caſtle hill, wherein divers have gardens, and the caſtle green, which is incloſed within the walls of the ſaid caſtle."

Inquiſition, 11 James 1, Archives.

* P. 82.

CHAPTER 33.

Branches of the Herbert Family.—Powells of Perthîr.—Anecdote of Mr. Proger.—Troy Houſe.—Collection of Portraits.—Treowen.—Wonaſtow Houſe.—Families of Herbert and Milborne.—Excurſion to Trelech.—Road from Chepſtow to Monmouth.

THE family of Herbert, which ſeems to have been firſt eſtabliſhed at Werndee, was remarkable for its multifarious branches, and occupied, under the names of Herbert, Jones, Powell and Proger, numerous ſeats in this country. In the vicinity of Monmouth ſeveral places are diſtinguiſhed, which once formed the reſidence of theſe various branches; moſt of which, from various cauſes, particularly from the extinction of the male line, have been conveyed to other families, but ſtill retain traces of their former diſtinction; this chapter will contain an account of the principal: Perthîr, Troy Houſe, Treowen, and Wonaſtow.

In company with the Rev. William Roberts, who reſides at Perthîr, and to whom I was indebted for various communications, I walked to this ancient place, which is ſituated two miles from Monmouth, in a fertile plain, to the right of the road leading to Groſmont, not far from the banks of the Monnow. He introduced me to John Powell Lorimer, eſq. the preſent proprietor, who favoured me with a friendly reception, permitted me to inſpect his pedigree, and gave me all the information concerning his family, which the ſcanty documents in his poſſeſſion enabled him to afford.

Perthîr, which once vied with Werndee as the moſt ancient ſeat of the Herbert family, appears to have been the reſidence of Gwillim, ſon of Jenkin, lord of Werndee. His grandſon Howell ap Thomas was lord of Perthîr, and anceſtor of the

the line who reſided at this manſion. His ſon William, (called in the Welch pedigrees, ap Howell ap Thomas ap Gwillim) firſt adopted a ſurname after the Engliſh cuſtom, and changed his patronymic ap Howell into Powell, by which name this branch has been ſince diſtinguiſhed; he was killed at the battle of Banbury, under the ſtandard of his couſin the earl of Pembroke. His lineal deſcendant John Powell, eſq. dying without iſſue male towards the beginning of this century, left four daughters, who were unmarried, and the eſtate came to the family of Lorimer ſeated at Newbolds * in the vicinity, one of whoſe anceſtors had eſpouſed a Powell of Perthîr.

A few remains of ancient magnificence appear in a gothic window of four compartments, with ſtone mouldings, which ſeems to be at leaſt as early as the reign of Henry the fifth; in the hall or paſſage, thirty-ſeven feet length and nine in breadth; in the wooden rafters, which contain timber ſufficient for four modern roofs; and particularly in the long and lofty hall, with a curious vaulted cieling, and a muſic gallery at one extremity, the windows of which are emblazoned with the Herbert arms †. There are a few family portraits; Mary, wife of John Powell, the laſt male of the family, and their four daughters, Mary, Bridget, Catherine, and Winifred, who died unmarried. There is alſo a head of the Rev. Matthew Prichard, a friar of the order of Recollets, and Roman catholic biſhop, long reſident at Perthîr, where he died in 1750, aged 81; he was buried in Rockfield church, under a ſepulchral ſtone, with a Latin inſcription, commemorating his profound learning, extenſive benevolence, and great attention to the duties of his paſtoral office.

The manſion is now conſiderably reduced from its former ſize and magnificence, which were equal to the ancient eſtates of the family, which were once ſo large, that according to tradition, they ſtretched from Perthîr to Roſs. The preſent proprietor took down a part of the houſe, which was much too large for his family, containing thirteen bed chambers, and other offices. The manſion was formerly

* I am informed by Mr. Roberts, that Newbolds was probably given in marriage with a daughter of Perthîr to an anceſtor of Mr. Lorimer. An old deed mentions William ap Howell, as "Dominus de Newbold & Perthyre, anno Henrici ſeptimi decimo."

† Theſe arms are now borne by Mr. Lorimer, with the Moor's head for a creſt. which is the ſame as that of the Jones's of Lanarth.

formerly ſurrounded by a moat, which was provided with two draw-bridges. The family being catholics, there was likewiſe an elegant gothic chapel, dedicated to St. Catherine, which was demoliſhed in 1745. A whole length portrait of St. Catherine, not ill executed, was the altar-piece, and is now uſed for the ſame purpoſe in an apartment of the houſe.

X Mr. Lorimer pointed out to me a window remarkable for a curious anecdote, relating to the conteſt for precedence, between the rival houſes of Perthîr and Werndee, which though leſs bloody, was not leſs obſtinate, than that between the houſes of York and Lancaſter. Mr. Proger dining with a friend at Monmouth, propoſed riding to Werndee in the evening, but his friend objecting, becauſe it was late and likely to rain, Mr. Proger replied, " with regard to the lateneſs of the hour, we ſhall have moonlight, and ſhould it happen to rain, Perthîr is not far from the road, and my couſin Powell will, I am very ſure, give us a night's lodging." They accordingly mounted their horſes, but being ſoon overtaken by a violent ſhower, rode to Perthîr, and found all the family retired to reſt. Mr. Proger, however, calling to his couſin, Mr. Powell opened the window, and looking out, aſked, " in the name of wonder, what means all this noiſe? Who is there?" " It is only I, your couſin Proger of Werndee, who am come to your hoſpitable door for ſhelter from the inclemency of the weather, and hope you will be ſo kind as to give me and my friend a lodging." " What is it you couſin Proger? you and your friend ſhall be inſtantly admitted, but upon one condition, that you will allow, and never hereafter diſpute, that I am the head of the family." " What did you ſay?" returned Mr. Proger, " Why I ſay, if you expect to paſs the night in my houſe, you muſt allow that I am the head of the family." " No ſir, I never would admit that; were it to rain ſwords and daggers, I would ride this night to Werndee, rather than lower the conſequence of my family. Come up, Bald, come up." " Stop a moment, couſin Proger, have you not often confeſſed, that the firſt earl of Pembroke (of the name of Herbert) was the youngeſt ſon of Perthîr, and will you ſet yourſelf above the earls of Pembroke." " True, I muſt give place to the earl of Pembroke, becauſe he is a peer of the realm; but ſtill, though a peer, he is of the youngeſt

youngeſt branch of my family, being deſcended from the fourth ſon of Werndee, who was your anceſtor, and ſettled at Perthîr; whereas I am deſcended from the eldeſt ſon. Indeed my couſin Jones of Lanarth is of an older branch than you, and yet he never diſputes that I am the head of the family." "Why couſin Proger, I have nothing more to ſay, ſo good night to you." "Stop a moment, Mr. Powell," ſaid the ſtranger, "you ſee how it pours, do admit me at leaſt; I will not diſpute with you about our families." "Pray ſir, what is your name, and where do you come from?" "My name is * * * and I come from the county of * * *." "A Saxon of courſe; it would be very curious indeed ſir, ſhould I diſpute with a Saxon about families; no ſir, you muſt ſuffer for the obſtinacy of your friend, and ſo a pleaſant ride to you both."

Treowen, which I have already mentioned as being the ancient manſion of the family of Jones, ſeated at Lanarth, is delightfully ſituated about two miles from Wonaſtow, and three from Monmouth, and is now converted into a farm houſe. It was built by Inigo Jones, and was originally a large and ſplendid manſion; but a conſiderable part has been taken down ſince the reſidence was transferred to Lanarth. The number, ſize, height, and decorations of the apartments, and a grand ſtaircaſe of ſolid oak, diſplay the maſſive taſte and magnificence which reigned in the beginning of the ſixteenth century. The front of the houſe is faced with hewn ſtone, and diſtinguiſhed by a porch in the anglo-grecian ſtyle of architecture adopted by Inigo Jones. Over the entrance is a ſhield of arms in ſtone, charged with nine quarterings, of which the firſt, three lions rampant, is borne by the family of Jones, and proves their deſcent from the Herbert ſtock.

The grounds, which are converted into a farm, are finely diverſified, richly clothed with wood, and in the hands of Browne, might have become an ornament to the county.

Troy Houſe ſtands about a mile to the eaſt of Monmouth, near the ſmall river Trothy, from which it derives the name of Trothy, corrupted into Troy Houſe. An ancient gothic gateway, leading into the court, probably belonged to the manſion inhabited by the Herberts; but the preſent houſe is ſaid to have been built by Inigo Jones. It does not however reflect much credit on the taſte of that eminent architect, having a long ſtraggling front, and being

being built in ſo low a ſituation as to exclude all proſpect from the habitable apartments; a poſition which the architect muſt have taken ſome pains to ſelect, as in any other ſpot it would have commanded a pleaſing and extenſive view. The apartments are well proportioned and commodious, and not deficient in an air of ſtate and grandeur.

Thomas Herbert, ſon of ſir William ap Thomas, and brother of the earl of Pembroke, ſeems to have been proprietor of this place; according to William of Worceſter * he was ſquire for the body, ſerved in the French wars, under Richard duke of York, and Humphrey duke of Gloceſter, and died at Troy. On his death the eſtate probably came to his brother the earl of Pembroke; for his natural ſon ſir William Herbert is called, in a pedigree in the Heralds' office, ſir William Herbert of Troy. His ſon ſir Charles † married Eliſabeth, daughter of ſir Griffith Rhys, by whom he had John Herbert. Either the heireſs of the houſe eſpouſed a Powell, or his deſcendants aſſumed the name of Powell; for in the reign of James the firſt, Troy houſe was the property of ſir Charles Somerſet, ſixth ſon of Edward, fourth earl of Worceſter, in virtue of his marriage with Eliſabeth, daughter and heireſs of ſir William Powell, of Troy and Lanpylt ‡, in the county of Monmouth. Sir Charles was the brother of the venerable marquis who defended Raglan caſtle, and in the Apothegms is given a converſation between the marquis and Charles the firſt, upon the ſubject of ſome fruit, the produce of his gardens at Troy houſe, in which the marquis and his royal gueſt quibbled upon the name of Troy §.

Troy

* Itin. p. 122.

† "Nere the towne ſir Charles Herbert of Troye dwelt in a faire ſeate called Troy." Churchyard, p. 5.

‡ Lanpylt or Lanpyll, is in the pariſh of Wolves Newton, and now belongs to the duke of Beaufort.

§ "Sir Thomas Somerſet, brother to the marquis of Worceſter, had a houſe which was called Troy, five miles from Raglan caſtle. This ſir Thomas being a complete gentleman, delighted much in fine gardens and orchards, where by the benefit of art, the earth was made ſo grateful to him at the ſame time, that the king (Charles the firſt) happened to be at his brother's houſe, that it yielded him wherewithal to ſend brother Worceſter a preſent; and ſuch an one as (the times and ſeaſons conſidered) was able to make the king believe, that the ſovereign of the planets had now changed the poles, and that Wales (the refuſe and outcaſt of the fair garden of England) had fairer and riper fruit than England's bowels had on all her beds. This preſent, given to the marquis, he would not ſuffer to be preſented to the king by any other hand than his own. "Here I preſent you, ſir," ſaid the marquis, (placing his diſhes upon the table) "with that which came not from Lincoln that was, nor London that is, nor York that is to be, but from Troy." Whereupon the king ſmiled, and anſwered the marquis; "Truly, my lord, I have heard that corn grows where Troy town ſtood, but I never thought there had grown any apricots before."

Apothegms of the Earl of Worceſter.

Troy Houſe contains a large collection of family portraits. In the ſaloon, a half length of Henry, the ſecond earl of Worceſter, on wood; he is ſeated in an arm chair, his beard pointed; he is habited in a black dreſs, falling ſtiff ruff, with a rich ſword and belt: he died in 1549, and was buried in Chepſtow church. Edward, fourth earl of Worceſter, dreſſed in white, ſhort veſt, and trunk hoſe, with the ribband of the garter round his neck, as was the cuſtom in his days: he died in 1628, and was buried at Raglan. Eliſabeth Haſtings, his wife, in her wedding clothes; a curious mode of dreſs; a black coat trimmed with fur, ſleeves black and white in alternate ſquares; a black and white lace round her neck; ſhe holds in her hand a book, with rings on her fingers. Another portrait of the ſame lady in a more advanced age, alſo painted on wood, with a date of 1570*.

The moſt remarkable picture in the houſe is that of Edward earl of Glamorgan, ſixth earl and ſecond marquis of Worceſter, with his wife Eliſabeth, daughter of ſir William Dormer, knight, and one of their daughters. He is habited in a Roman military dreſs, his hair long and flowing, and holds in his hand a truncheon. An inſcription on the picture erroneouſly ſtyles him Edward, fourth earl of Worceſter, and he has been uſually miſcalled the marquis of Worceſter, who defended Raglan caſtle †. Henry, firſt duke of Beaufort, in the robes of the garter; he died in 1699. His wife Mary, daughter of Arthur lord Capel, the brave loyaliſt, who was beheaded by the parliament in 1648, and widow of Henry Seymour, lord Beauchamp; ſhe is ſitting in a white dreſs, with a black veil thrown back, and holds a book. Lord Arthur Somerſet, fifth ſon of Henry firſt duke, chriſtened after his uncle and godfather Arthur Capel, earl of Eſſex. Henry, ſecond duke, in his peer's robes, born in the caſtle of Monmouth 1684; he was ſon of Charles, marquis of Worceſter, who died before his father in 1698. His wife Rachel, daughter and coheir of Wriothesley Baptiſt, earl of Gainſborough. Henry, third duke, in brown and gold, with a view of the Coliſeum in the back ground;

* This portrait is erroneouſly called Eliſabeth, daughter of ſir Anthony Brown, knight, wife of Henry, ſecond earl of Worceſter; but ſhe died in 1565, and the picture bears the date of 1570.

† See the character of the earl of Glamorgan, p. 150.

ground; he died in 1746. His brother Charles Noel, fourth duke, father to the preſent, in his robes; he diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the Houſe of Commons as a great leader of the Tories, and died in 1756. His wife Eliſabeth; daughter of John Berkeley, eſq. of Stoke Gifford, in Gloceſterſhire, baroneſs Bottetourt in her own right. Heads of James, laſt duke of Ormond, who was outlawed for his attachment to the houſe of Stewart, and Mary his ducheſs, ſecond daughter of Henry, firſt duke of Beaufort. Henry, the third duke, and lord Charles Noel Somerſet, when young, in one picture. In the houſekeeper's room is a carved oak chimney-piece, a curious ſpecimen of old furniture, brought from Raglan caſtle: it is divided into three compartments, of which the center repreſents the ſacrifice of Iſaac. In a bed-chamber on the third ſtory, is another chimney-piece, carved in wood, and inlaid with mother-of-pearl; the middle pannel is diſtinguiſhed by an eſcutcheon, in which the firſt and third quartering are the family arms; on each ſide are the figures of Plenty, with a cornucopia, and wheat ears, and Love with two turtle doves.

Wonaſtow houſe is ſeated on the ſummit of a ſwelling eminence, about a mile from Monmouth, near the lower road leading to Abergavenny. In the reign of Eliſabeth it was poſſeſſed by ſir Thomas Herbert, knight, great grandſon of William Herbert, firſt earl of Pembroke of that name, and younger ſon of ſir Charles Herbert, of Troy houſe, by Eliſabeth, daughter of ſir Griffith ap Rhys; he was ſheriff of the county in the firſt of Eliſabeth. His ſon Henry eſpouſed lady Lucy, daughter of William, third earl of Worceſter, and left ſeveral daughters; one of whom, Chriſtian, conveyed Wonaſtow to her huſband George Milborne, eſq. of Milborne Port, in the county of Somerſet; he was juſtice of peace and deputy lieutenant of the county of Monmouth, and appears to have twice ſerved the office of ſheriff, in the 15th of James the firſt, and in the 10th of Charles the firſt.

George Milborne died in 1637, leaving a numerous offſpring of four ſons and five daughters. His fourth deſcendant, George, increaſed his fortune, which was very conſiderable, by eſpouſing Mary, ſole daughter and heireſs of James Gunter,

Gunter *, eſq. of the priory at Abergavenny. Their ſon Charles eſpouſed lady Martha, daughter of Edward, third earl of Oxford and Mortimer; dying in 1775 without iſſue male, the whole united property of the Gunter and Milborne familes, ſituated in the different counties of Monmouth, Middleſex, Hereford, and Brecon, was inherited by his daughter Mary. She eſpouſed Thomas Swinnerton, eſq. of Butterton hall, in the county of Stafford, a deſcendant of ſir Roger de Swinnerton †, of Swinnerton, in the ſame county. Mrs. Swinnerton died in 1795, leaving three daughters and coheirs, Martha and Mary, who were twins, and Eliſabeth.

The houſe, though much diminiſhed from its original ſize, is ſtill a conſiderable edifice of ancient date, and ſeems to have been conſtructed as early as the age of Henry the ſixth; it contains a few portraits, among which is one of ſir Thomas Herbert, dreſſed in the coſtume of Eliſabeth; of George Milborne, who married Mary Gunter; and a well painted picture by Romney, of the late Mrs. Swinnerton, the amiable and accompliſhed heireſs of this venerable manſion.

The chapel, which ſtands at the extremity of a large court, is now uſed as a garden houſe. The manſion is divided into two tenements; one occupied by Mr. Williams, the preſent ſteward, and the other by a tenant who rents the demeſne.

The church, which adjoins to the houſe, is a gothic edifice; in the chancel is a ſumptuous monument, erected to the memory of George Milborne, eſq. and Chriſtian, the heireſs of Wonaſtow. The living is a vicarage, and with thoſe of Abergavenny and Lanellen, in the gift of the family.

The

* The Gunters were remarkable for their good ſenſe, comelineſs, and ſpirit, and were particularly noticed by king William and Mary, on their appearance at court; it is a common expreſſion in the country, that a clever man is a Gunter; and on the contrary, that a heavy man is no Gunter. Charles the firſt and ſecond honoured the Gunters of the priory with ſeveral viſits: one of theſe is ſpecified in the Iter Carolum; July 1, 1645; "To Abergavenny, ſupper, Mr. Gunter's." There is ſtill an apartment in the priory, diſtinguiſhed by the name of the king's bed-chamber; a tradition alſo remains in the family, that the keys of the houſe, cellar, and offices, were delivered to the king's purveyor on theſe occaſions.

† Sir Roger de Swinnerton was created a knight banneret in the holy wars, with permiſſion to bear for his arms a croſs formeé, flory, and a motto, "Avancez et bien archez," alluding to his intrepidity and ſkill in archery, which are ſtill uſed by Mr. Swinnerton. In 11 Edward III. he had ſummons to parliament among the barons of the realm. Dugdale, vol. 2. p. 112.

The views from the houſe are moſt delightful, and the grounds ſweeping from the ſummit to the foot of the hill, are laid out in the ſtyle of a park, and clothed with hanging groves of ancient oak and elm, which preſent a grand and ornamental appearance from every part of the ſurrounding country.

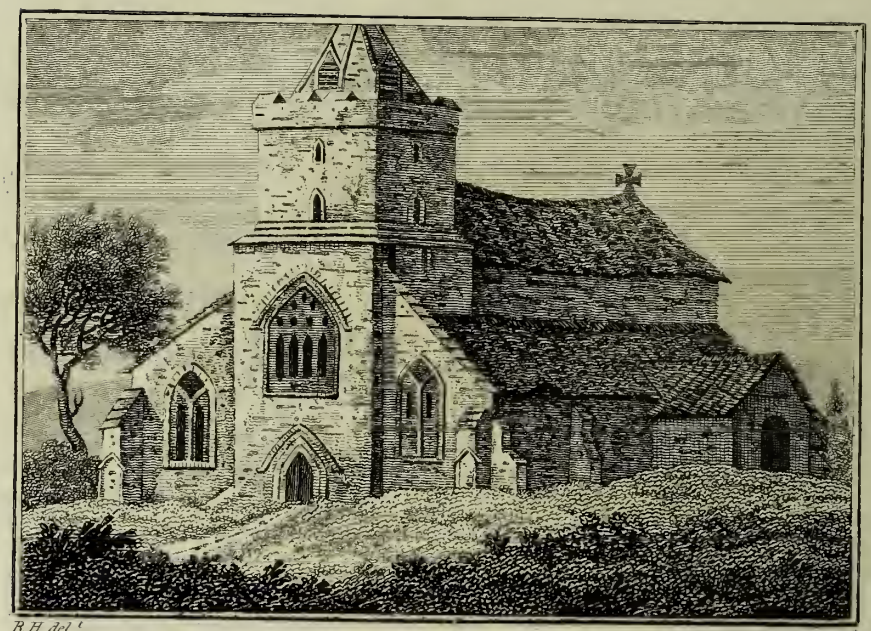
From Monmouth I made an excurſion to the village of Trelech, remarkable for three druidical ſtones, which ſtand in a field adjoining the high road, at a ſmall diſtance from the church, and from which the place is ſaid to derive its appellation. Some perſons have erroneouſly ſuppoſed that they once ſupported a cromlech*, which is impoſſible, becauſe the diſtance of the middle ſtone from the ſmalleſt is not leſs than fourteen feet, and from the largeſt near twenty. The perpendicular height of the ſmalleſt is nine feet two inches, of the middle ten feet one inch, and of the largeſt eleven feet ten inches; they all incline; the largeſt is fifteen feet long above the ground, and fourteen in circumference at the baſe.

Theſe maſſes are a compoſition of pebbles and cement†, ſo ſoft as to crumble under the touch; the outſide of the ſtone which is expoſed to the air is grey; but when broken the natural colour appears to be red. The ſtrata of the neighbouring rocks conſiſt of this ſubſtance, and fragments of a ſimilar kind are ſpread over Trelech common.

The natives call them Harold's ſtones, and ſuppoſe they allude to his victory over the Britons; but the rudeneſs of their form evidently proves them anterior to the æra in which he flouriſhed; they are probably Britiſh remains of great antiquity, erected either as places of worſhip or as ſepulchral memorials. If we may judge from the number of theſe druidical ſtones in the vicinity, Trelech was once a diſtinguiſhed place. Half a mile from the village, to the left of the road leading to Monmouth, I obſerved, in the midſt of an open common, another of theſe ſtones placed upright, near ſeven feet high, and ſurrounded by a ſmall circular trench. On the oppoſite ſide of the road is a low mound, with ſcattered fragments of ſtones which appear to have been placed in a circular form.

In

* A ſtone placed on the tops of one, two, or more erect ſtones, as a kind of altar, on which ſacrifices were ſuppoſed to be made. † Vulgarly called pudding ſtone.



R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

TRELEG CHURCH.

R.H. del.t W.B. direx.t

DRUIDICAL STONES.

Published March 1 1800, by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

In the garden of Mrs. Rumſey, in the midſt of the village, is a tumulus or barrow, encloſed by a moat, about four hundred and fifty feet in circumference, with traces of extenſive entrenchments. By ſome this mound is ſuppoſed to be an ancient barrow or burial place; by others, the keep of the caſtle, which belonged to the earls of Clare*, and was conveyed in the ſame manner as the caſtle of Uſk, through the families of de Burgh, Mortimer, and York, to the crown. Subſequent to them, I find a branch of the Seymours† eſtabliſhed at Trelech, and afterwards the Rumſeys, an ancient family in Monmouthſhire, who were long ſettled in this place, which is now occupied by the widow of the laſt proprietor.

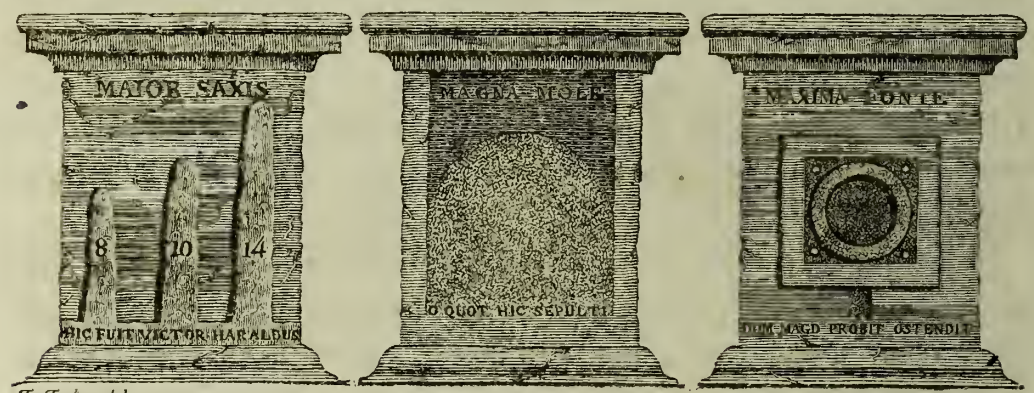
Near the village is alſo a mineral well, ſtrongly impregnated with iron, of which the author of the Secret Memoirs makes honourable mention: "Treleg wells, which of late years have been much frequented, and have been found very medicinal, and of the nature of Tunbridge waters, flowing from an iron ore mineral, of which, and cinders left by the bloom works, plenty is found in theſe parts‡."

The cinders to which this author alludes, are thoſe remains of bloomeries uſually diſtinguiſhed by the name of Roman cinders, and are thickly ſpread over the adjoining fields. Theſe ſcoria are conſidered by ſome perſons as evident ſigns of a Roman ſettlement; and I am induced to imagine, that the Romans had an eſtabliſhment at Trelech, through which a communication was formed with the Akeman Street, at or near Chepſtow, and thence with the Julia Strata at Caerwent; perhaps the tumulus was the ſite of an exploratory camp.

In the middle of the village, not far from the church, is an ancient ſtone pedeſtal, ſupporting a ſun dial, which is much noticed as a ſpecimen of high antiquity On three ſides are carved repreſentations of the tumulus, the chalybeate well, and the three ſtones. Above the tumulus is inſcribed MAGNA MOLE, and beneath, O QUOT HIC SEPULTI; the figure of the well is accompanied with MAXIMA FONTE, and DOM MAGD PROBIT OSTENDIT. The height of the three ſtones above the ground is marked as being 14, 10, and 8 feet; MAJOR SAXIS

* Dugdale., art. Clare. See alſo p. 128. † MS. in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Jones of Piſtill. ‡ P. 34.

SAXIS is inſcribed over them, and under, HIC FUIT VICTOR HARALDUS. The ſhape of the pedeſtal and the form of the letters prove it to be more modern than is generally ſuppoſed, and I ſuſpect that the inſcription, in honour of Harold's victory over the Britons, was the work of ſome enthuſiaſtic *Saxon* in the fifteenth or ſixteenth century.



T. Tudor, del. *Lee, ſc.*

ELEVATIONS OF THE EAST, SOUTH, AND NORTH SIDES OF THE PEDESTAL.

The church is a handſome gothic building, with an elegant ſpire; and is more ornamented than moſt of the churches in that ſtyle of architecture in Monmouthſhire; the inſide is not inelegant, and the lofty and tapering arches, which ſeparate the nave from the aiſles, have a pleaſing effect.

Trelech is ſituated on the high road from Chepſtow to Monmouth, which is remarkable for a variety of wild and beautiful ſcenery. It leaves Piercefield lodge and grounds on the right, aſcends to the top of an eminence, commanding a ſuperb proſpect, then deſcends through an extenſive tract of foreſt, called Chepſtow Park, winds up to the Devaudon Green, and continues along the ſummit of the Devaudon, leaving the road to Raglan on the left, through a ſucceſſion of heathy commons and rich incloſures. As I paſſed along the brow of this eminence, to the eaſt appeared an undulating ſurface of dreary heaths and extenſive foreſts, among which the Wy winds, unſeen, in a profound abyſs; to the weſt I admired the fertile vallies of Monmouthſhire, ſtretching between the Devaudon and the majeſtic barrier of mountains which ſeparate the county from Glamorganſhire and Brecknockſhire.

Towards the extremity of the Devaudon, the road trends from its northerly direction eaſt and north-eaſt to Trelech, croſſes the common, and leaves at a little diſtance on the left the conſpicuous eminence of Craig y Dorth, where Owen Glendower, in one of his predatory incurſions, defeated the royal troops, and purſued them to the gates of Monmouth.

At the extremity of the common I diſmounted, and walked down the declivity leading to Monmouth; midway I paſſed on my left Leidet houſe, now occupied by the Rev. William Powell, which is remarkable for the beauty of its poſition, on the brow of an eminence, overlooking the groves of Wonaſtow. At this point the mountains in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny aſſume a new poſition; the gentle ſwell of the little Skyrrid is peculiarly elegant, and the craggy ridge of the great Skyrrid appears ſurmounted by the cone of the Sugar Loaf; below Monmouth ſtretches on the banks of the Wy, beautifully embowered in trees, and backed by wooded eminences, above which riſes the bleak and rugged ſummit of the little Doward.

TROY HOUSE.

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CHAPTER 34.

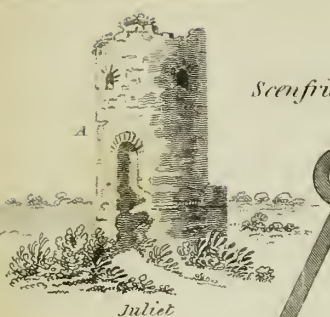
White Caſtle.—Scenfreth.—Newcaſtle.—Remarkable Oak.—The Graig.—Caſtle of Groſmont.—John of Kent.

AS White Caſtle, Scenfreth, and Groſmont, were uſually poſſeſſed by the ſame perſon, as they were ingulphed in the immenſe poſſeſſions of the houſe of Lancaſter afterwards annexed to the crown, and as they are now included in one diſtrict, called the hundred of the three caſtles, parts of the duchy of Lancaſter, I ſhall compriſe their hiſtory and deſcription in the ſame chapter.

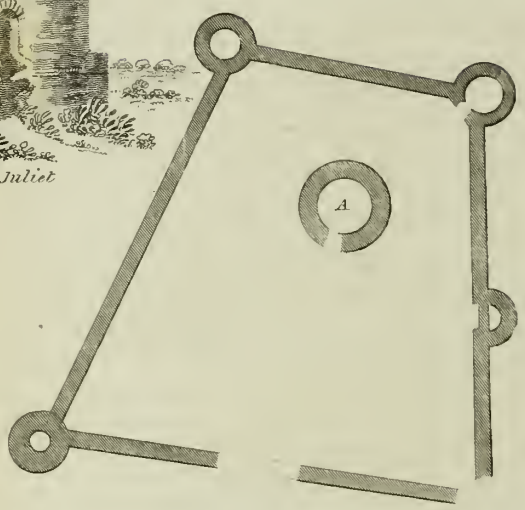
All the northern part of Monmouthſhire, ſtretching from the Wy to Abergavenny, was compriſed under the name of Overwent, and firſt over-run by Brien Fitz Count, earl of Hereford, who came into England with the Conqueror; he obtained by marriage the caſtle of Abergavenny, and moſt probably built or ſtrengthened Groſmont, Scenfreth, and White caſtles. They afterwards belonged to the Cantelupes and the Braoſes, who were lords of Abergavenny; it is particularly ſpecified, that "in the 7 of John, William de Braoſe gave eight hundred marks, three horſes for the great ſaddle, five . . . . . chacuros, twenty-four . . . . Senſas, and ten greyhounds, to have livery of the caſtles of Groſmont, Skenefrith, and Lanteilo, which were of his inheritance, and which he held of the king, by the ſervice of two knights' fees *."

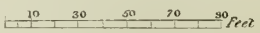
Henry the third afterwards ſeiſed theſe caſtles, and gave them to his favourite Hubert de Burgh, whoſe power almoſt equalled that of the ſovereign himſelf, and whoſe ſufferings exceed thoſe of the moſt perſecuted knight in the annals of romance. Having incurred the diſpleaſure of the king, he was impriſoned

* Dugdale, vol. 1. p. 415.

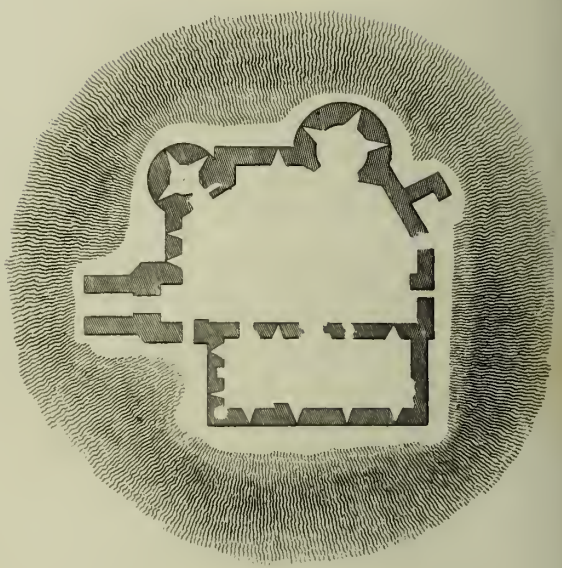


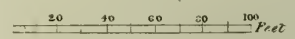
Scenfrith Castle



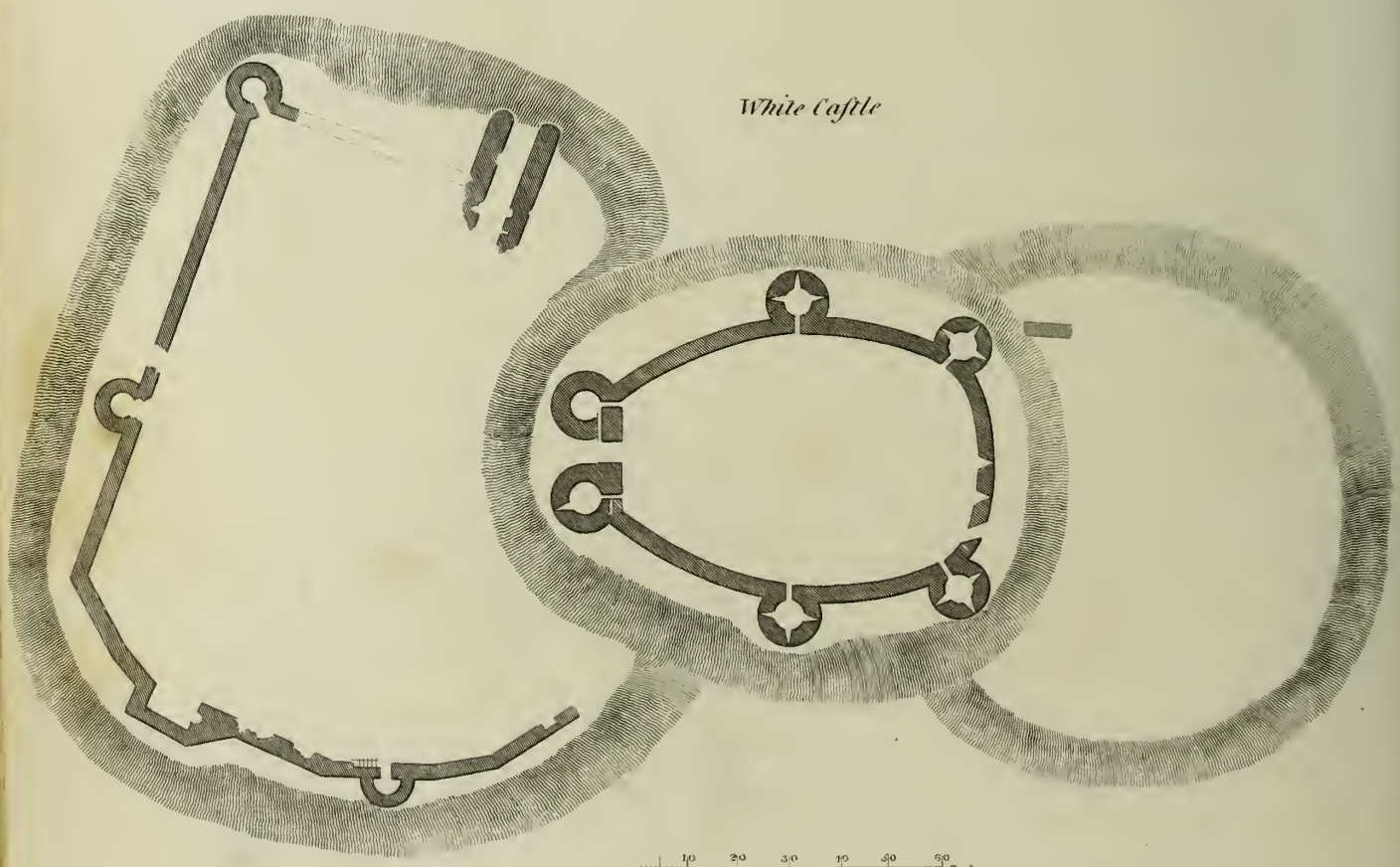


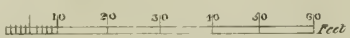
Grosmond Castle





White Castle





Tudor del. Harding sc

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impriſoned and almoſt famiſhed to death, and did not recover his liberty until he had reſigned the three caſtles to the crown *.

In 1267, Henry the third granted, with many other poſſeſſions, the three caſtles to his ſon Edmund Crouchback, earl of Lancaſter, and the grant was confirmed by Edward the firſt in the thirteenth year of his reign †. They afterwards came to John of Gaunt, in the ſame manner as the caſtle of Monmouth, formed part of the duchy of Lancaſter, and with Caldecot caſtle are the only poſſeſſions in Monmouthſhire which ſtill belong to the duchy. Theſe three caſtles were held by the family of Powell, ſettled at Landeilo, under a leaſe from the duchy, afterwards by John Lewis, eſq. who married the heireſs of the Powells, and by his ſon the preſent proprietor of Landeilo; on the expiration of the leaſe they were demiſed to the duke of Beaufort ‡.

The ruins of White Caſtle are ſituated a mile and a half to the north of Landeilo Creſſeney, eight miles to the eaſt of Monmouth, and ſeven to the weſt of Abergavenny. They occupy the ridge of an eminence, ſurrounded with a deep moat, 286 yards in circumference; the walls are of conſiderable thickneſs, and faced with hewn ſtone of a brown colour. The figure is irregular, of an oblong ſhape, reſembling an oval; the works are partly ſtraight and partly curvilinear, and are ſtrengthened with ſix round towers, which ſtand without the walls, and were ſo contrived as to reſiſt a ſiege, even after the loſs of the inner court. The principal entrance is towards the north; it conſiſts of a gateway, which was defended by a portcullis and drawbridge, and flanked by two high and maſſive towers; there is another entrance to the ſouth-weſt, on the oppoſite ſide.

Several veſtiges of apartments, which projected into the area, ſtill exiſt, but not ſufficient to diſcriminate their form. The walls in the whole extent of the outward circumference have no windows, (one only excepted, which is modern) but chinks or oeillets, for the purpoſe of ſhooting arrows at the beſiegers. The length of the area is 145 feet, and the greateſt breadth 106; it is now a place

* Dugdale. Leland, Coll. vol. 2, p. 391. † See chapter 32. ‡ Archives of the duchy.

a place of paſture for horſes and cows, which take ſhelter in the ruined towers; and affords an occaſional cover for hares, one of which I put up as I was paſſing the court.

On the outſide of the foſs, are the remains of a barbican or anti-mural, oppoſite to the principal entrance of the caſtle which it defended, and with which it was connected by a drawbridge. Theſe outworks were very ſtrong; parts of thick walls remain, flanked by a ſquare and ſeveral round towers. The area of the barbican occupies a large ſpace of ground, and is now a corn field. Towards the ſouth, are likewiſe the remains of outworks, but ſo overgrown with brambles and thickets that it is difficult to trace their dimenſions.

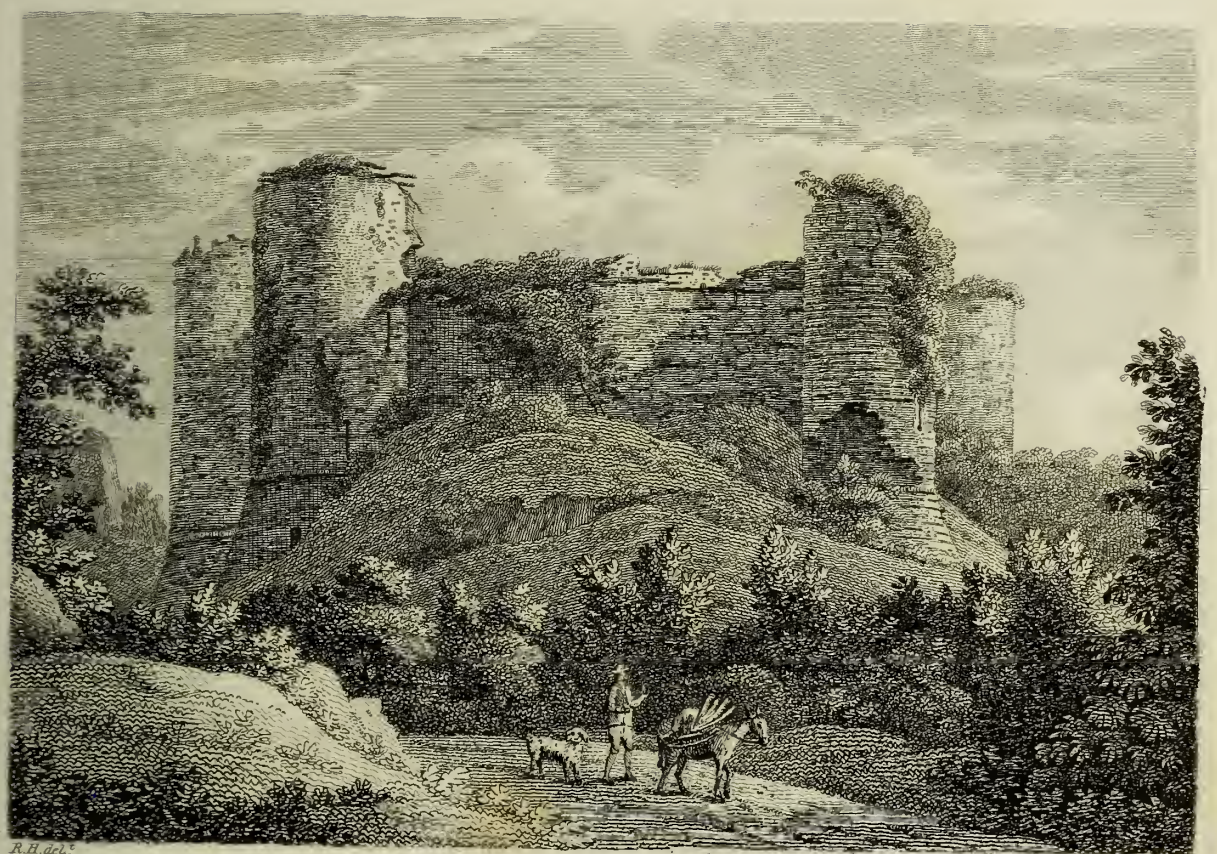
The maſſive remains of the caſtle, the height of the towers *, the extent of the outworks, the depth of the foſſes, indicate a place of conſiderable ſtrength and importance, which probably enſured, for ſeveral ages, the dominion of this part of the country. From the ſtyle of the architecture, it appears to have been conſtructed either before the conqueſt, or at the lateſt in the early times of the Norman æra. The records of hiſtory give ſanction to this opinion.

It is called in ancient documents Whyt Caſtle, Caſtell Blaunch, or Blanch, and Album Caſtrum; and is ſaid to derive its name from ſir Gwyn ap Gwaithvoed †, its poſſeſſor at the time of the Norman invaſion. Hence it was called Caſtell *Gwyn*, and as *Gwyn* in the Welſh tongue ſignifies *White*, obtained the name of White Caſtle. It is alſo mentioned under the name of Caſtell Gwyn, as belonging to William de Braoſe, lord of Abergavenny, who flouriſhed in the reign of Henry the ſecond; on his baniſhment it was ſeiſed by the Welſh, recovered by his ſon Reginald, confirmed to his grandſon William de Braoſe, afterwards appropriated by Henry the third, and united to the duchy of Lancaſter.

In

* The height of the moſt perfect tower is not leſs than 60 feet; the depth of the moat is from 14 to 18 feet, and the breadth from 40 to 70.

† Gwaithvoed, prince of Cardigan in right of his mother, died in 1057. He left eight ſons, of whom the eldeſt Cadivor vaur was anceſtor of the Morgans, his ſixth ſon Bach, was lord of Scenfreth, and his ſeventh was this ſir Gwyn ap Gwaithvoed; his arms were, per pale gules and azure, a lion rampant, or, ſupporting a tree proper. From a MS. in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Jones of Piſtill.



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WHITE CASTLE.

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In the time of Henry the eighth it was not dilapidated; Leland ſays, " this caſtle ſtandeth on a hill, and is drye moted; it is made almoſt of great ſlate ſtone, and is the greateſt of the three." In the days of Eliſabeth, White Caſtle was a place of great renown and magnificence, and is deſcribed by Churchyard as *

" A ſtatelie ſeate, a loftie princely place."

But it probably went rapidly to decay, for in the tenth of James the firſt, it is preſented by the jury as " ruinous and in decay time out of mind †."

The caſtle of Scenfreth is ſituated about five miles to the eaſt of White Caſtle, and ſeven to the north of Monmouth; a fortreſs ſeldom viſited by travellers, as the acceſs to it is difficult both for carriages and horſes. The carriage road goes through Rockfield, where it quits the turnpike leading by Landeilo Creſſeney to Abergavenny, continues towards Groſmont as far as the Boot public houſe, about ſeven miles from Monmouth, and then enters a road ſcarcely paſſable, although it is part of the turnpike to Roſs. The horſeway leaves the carriage road about four miles from Monmouth, and after traverſing St. Maughan's common, proceeds through a narrow ſteep and ſtony lane, overgrown with thickets, and pitched with large ſtones placed edgeways in the boggy ſoil; theſe ſtones being broken or diſplaced, a ſucceſſion of uneven ſteps is formed, and horſes not accuſtomed to ſuch rugged and miry ways, are continually apt to ſtumble and flounder.

By the ſide of this road a pleaſant walk runs through the fields, on the ſlope overlooking the vale of the Monnow. In the vicinity of theſe lanes, ſuch footways are common in every part of Monmouthſhire, which thoſe who are fond of walking will traverſe with delight.

From Perthîr to Scenfreth, the frontiers of Monmouthſhire are ſeparated from the

* " Three caſtles fayre, are in a goodly ground,
" Groſmont is one, on hill it builded was;
" Skenfreth the next, in valley it is found,
" The ſoyle about, for pleaſure there doth paſſe;
" Whit Caſtle is the third of worthie fame,
" The country there doth bear Whyt Caſtle's name,
" A ſtately ſeate, a loftie princely place,
" Whoſe beautie gives the ſimple ſoyle ſome grace."

Worthines of Wales, p. 20.

† Inquiſitio Com. Mon. de albo Caſtro, 2da. pars. Archives of the duchy of Lancaſter.

the county of Hereford by the Monnow, which flows in a lively and tranſparent ſtream, through a narrow vale of rich paſture ſprinkled with neat hamlets, at the foot of ſucceſſive eminences thickly mantled with wood.

Scenfreth, which is only remarkable for its caſtle, is a miſerable village, containing a church, a few cottages, and two public houſes. The caſtle is placed in a recluſe ſpot, ſurrounded by hills, on the margin of the limpid and murmuring Monnow; though inconſiderable in ſize, having no traces of outworks, and calculated only to contain a ſmall garriſon for the command of the river, or the defence of an important defile, it is undoubtedly of high antiquity, which ſufficiently appears from the ſimplicity of its form. The walls incloſed an area in the ſhape of a trapezium, now a kitchen garden; its length is 160 feet, its greateſt breadth 170, and 84 in the narroweſt part. The walls are ſtrong, and flanked with five circular towers, one at each angle, and one in the middle of the ſide next the village, which had no communication with the area but from the battlements.

Towards the center of the area is a Juliet *, or high round tower, which was undoubtedly the keep or citadel; it is ſituated on a ſmall riſe, or artificial mound, but without any appearance of a moat or draw-bridge. The entrance, which was ſeveral feet from the ground, is much broken; the arches of the windows that remain are plainly rounded.

The principal entrance of the caſtle was probably on the northern ſide, on a raiſed mound of earth ſtill viſible, but the walls are fallen down, and no traces of the porch can be perceived. There was probably a draw-bridge, and two round towers. The walls were originally provided with no other apertures than ſmall chinks.

On the ſide of the village, the view of the ruins is obſtructed by houſes, ſheds, and ricks; but on the bridge of the Monnow they appear to ſome advantage, from the elevation of the Juliet, which towers above the dilapidated walls; the bridge itſelf is a pleaſing object; it is of ſtone, and conſiſts of two gothic arches.

Bach, ſixth ſon of Cadivor ap Gwaithvoed, or Cadivor Vaur, is mentioned by Enderbie

* See the engraving on the plan.

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BRIDGE AND CASTLE OF SCENFRITH.

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Enderbie as lord of Scenfreth, which was wreſted from him by one of the Norman chieftains. Although I have not been able to diſcover any other account of this place before the reign of king John, yet I have little heſitation in deciding, from the ſtyle of the architecture, that it is the oldeſt caſtle in Monmouthſhire, and was anterior to the conqueſt; but as it was inferior in ſtrength and conſequence to Monmouth, Groſmont, and White caſtles, its name does not ſo often occur, and its hiſtory is confounded with that of thoſe fortreſſes. Scenfreth is ſeldom mentioned ſingly, but follows the fortune of the two other Caſtles, and is always conveyed with them to the different proprietors, who obtained them either by marriage or grant from the crown: it was likewiſe ſeiſed by Henry the third, granted to his ſon Edmund earl of Lancaſter, paſſed to John of Gaunt, and in the reign of Henry the fifth, with them, became parcel of the duchy of Lancaſter, to which it now belongs.

In the days of Henry the eighth, Leland thus deſcribes it: "The caſtle of Scenfrith ſtandeth five miles above Monmouth towne, on Mone river, on the very ripe of it, ſecundum decurſum fluvii; and in times paſt, by all likelyhood, the river did goe about the caſtle dike. Mucli of the utterwarde of this caſtle yet ſtandeth: the ſite of it ſomewhat lowe. There is a ſtone bridge over Mone a little above the caſtle. Hubert de Burgh earl of Kent was lord of Skenfrith, and the noble Edmund earl of Kent had it*."

In the reign of James the firſt it was in a ſtate of dilapidation, and preſented by the jury as "ruinous and decayed time out of the memory of man."

In the north aiſle of the church, which is a gothic building extremely picturesque, is a curious monument of ſir John Morgan and Anne his wife. The figures are carved on a flat ſtone, round the edge of which is inſcribed, in gothic characters, "In hoc tumulo condita ſunt corpora Johannis Morgan, armigeri, qui obiit 2 die Septembris, anno 1557: et Annæ uxoris ejus, quæ obiit 4 die Januar. 1564." On each ſide of this tomb are baſſo relievo figures, and arms on the front and back.

A croſs road leads from Scenfreth to Groſmont, not far from the banks of the Monnow, and the frontiers of Herefordſhire. In my firſt tour I traverſed this route

* Leland, Itin. vol. 4. p. 176.

route on horſeback; the road is rugged, but extremely cool and pleaſant in ſummer, for it paſſes through narrow lanes overhung with wood, and croſſes numerous lively brooks, which fall into the Monnow.

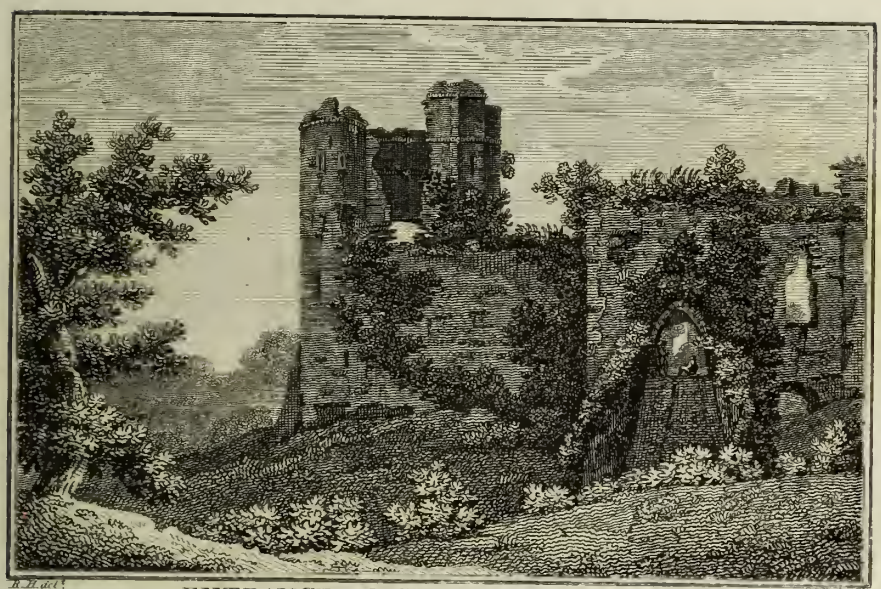
The road from Monmouth to Groſmont goes through Rockfield, leaves the road to Scenfreth on the right, and paſſes through Newcaſtle, where I ſtopped to examine the remains of a caſtle, from which the place derived its appellation. Theſe remains are inconſiderable, conſiſting only of a tumulus or barrow, environed by a moat 300 feet in circumference, with veſtiges of an exterior entrenchment. Of the origin or demolition of this caſtle, I can diſcover no traces in hiſtory.

The mount or barrow is ſuppoſed by the common people to be the haunt of ſpirits, and many ſtories of their apparition are circulated in the place. But an aged oak, which ſtands near the public houſe on the left of the road, is ſtill more the tale of the village, and has given riſe to as many legends in the vicinity, as Hearne's oak in Windſor foreſt, which Shakſpeare introduces as the ſcene of a fairy dance in the Merry Wives of Windſor; I figured to myſelf queen Mab ſinging to her nightly companions:

" And twenty glow-worms ſhall our lanterns be,
" To guide our meaſure round about the tree."

According to the opinion of the vulgar, this tree is protected by inviſible ſpirits, and no one has ever ventured to lop or injure it without feeling the effects of their vengeance. In confirmation of theſe aſſertions, one of the natives related to me ſeveral inſtances of *profane* perſons who ſuffered for their incredulity; one fell from the tree as he was lopping a branch, and broke his arm; another fractured his leg, and a third periſhed ſhortly after his ſacrilegious enterpriſe by an untimely death. This tree is not ſo much remarkable for its girth, although it meaſures twenty-ſeven feet, as for its pendent boughs and twiſted branches, which have a fantaſtic appearance; it is now hollow, and haſtening to decay, and is much diminiſhed from its original ſize; one of the largeſt branches, broken off by a violent ſtorm of wind, yielded fifteen car-loads of fire-wood. An engraving of this ſingular tree, from a ſketch taken by Mr. Tudor in 1780, will convey ſome idea of its former ſize and appearance.

* Not



R. H. del.t W. B. direct.

ENTRANCE TO GROSMONT CASTLE.

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VILLAGE & CASTLE OF SCENFRITH.

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Not only the barrow has its ſpirits, and the oak its hamadryad, but the water in the vicinity is equally ſacred; at the diſtance of half a mile from the village, and in the midſt of a pleaſant wood, a ſpring guſhes from the ſide of a hill, and after ſupplying a well, falls into a lively brook. This well is alſo ſuppoſed to poſſeſs a healing quality, which is communicated by an attendant ſpirit. The guide who conducted me to the ſpot, aſſured me, that it was an infallible cure for many diſorders, particularly the rheumatiſm; he added, that he was much ſubject to that complaint in the head, of which he had been repeatedly relieved by bathing in the well, or by expoſing the part affected for a conſiderable time to the current of the ſpring. In ſummer this well is much frequented by invalids, and has performed occaſional cures. The water ſeemed to contain no mineral particles; it is extremely cold, from which, as well as from the action of the ſtream, its efficacy is probably derived.

Quitting Newcaſtle, I purſued my journey, left the Boot public houſe and the road to Scenfreth on the right, paſſed the turnpike called Traveller's Seat, and at a ſmith's ſhop, about nine miles from Monmouth, quitted my chaiſe, and rode up the ſide of the Graig along the devious track which croſſes the mountain to Groſmont.

The Graig, which is the only conſpicuous hill in the north-eaſtern part of Monmouthſhire, riſes abruptly from the lowlands, is of an undulating ſhape, and its ſmooth and bare outline appears unintereſting to thoſe who have been accuſtomed to the broken and contraſted forms of the mountains in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny.

I reached to the ſummit near a ſmall mound, called the Tump, where the three pariſhes of Landeilo Creſſeney, Scenfreth, and Groſmont unite. The higheſt part of this mountain is a ſheep walk, and not unfrequently the ſcene of hunting parties, although the ſteepneſs of the declivities would aſtound many a *Saxon* ſportſman.

The day was uncommonly calm and ſerene, the ſun ſhone in full ſplendour, and every object was eaſily diſcriminated. The view from the ſummit is perhaps not inferior to any in Monmouthſhire; from its inſulated ſituation, height above the

the ſurrounding eminences, due diſtance from the mountainous region on the frontiers of Wales, and poſition at the north-eaſtern extremity of Monmouthſhire, it commands a boundleſs proſpect in every direction. Quitting its ſummit, I gently rode down the graſſy ſides of the mountain, through commons and thickets; paſſed the Graig houſe, ſituated on the declivity, in a wild and ſequeſtered ſpot, which was inhabited by Dr. Davies, the father of the vicar of St. Mary's, and at length reached Groſmont.

Groſmont, Groſſmount, Griſemond, or Griſemount Caſtle, is ſituated to the ſouth-eaſt of the village on an eminence near the Monnow; it is ſurrounded with a dry moat, and was ſtrengthened with outworks to the ſouth-eaſt, of which ſome of the remains are ſtill viſible, that formed the barbican; veſtiges of entrenchments alſo appear to the ſouth.

The preſent ruins, ſtanding on the ridge of the moat, encloſe an area of not more than 110 feet in length and 70 in breadth. The principal entrance to the ſouth is formed by a pointed arch; the doorways leading into the towers, and all the windows, whoſe forms can be traced, are of the ſame ſtyle; and the whole appearance of the remains, fully proves that it was conſtructed at an æra much poſterior to Scenfreth and White Caſtle. On the right of the entrance I noticed an oblong ſpacious apartment, with three windows on each ſide and two at each end, which meaſures 80 feet by 27, and was probably the great baronial hall. The caſtle was once much larger than at preſent; veſtiges of dilapidated apartments may be traced in the area; ſeveral remains of walls and foundations appear to the north, particularly the ruins of an apartment with a gothic chimney, which is high, tapering, and ſurmounted with a coronet.

The hiſtory of Groſmont Caſtle is compriſed under that of Scenfreth and White Caſtle; it belonged to the families of Braoſe and Cantilupe, was conveyed by Henry the third to Hubert de Burgh, again ſeiſed by the king, and afterwards annexed to the duchy of Lancaſter.

During the reign of Henry the third it was diſtinguiſhed by two events. Being inveſted by Lewellin prince of Wales, " the king came," ſays Lambarde, " with a great army to raiſe the ſiege, whereof as ſone

" as

R.H. del.t W.B. direct

GROSMONT CHURCH.

Published March 1. 1800 by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

R.H. del.t W.B. direct

SCENFRITH CHURCH.

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" as the Welſhmen had underſtandinge, they ſaved their lives by their " legges *." In a ſubſequent expedition however the royal troops ſeem to have had leſs underſtanding than the Welſh. The king marching againſt Richard Marſhal, earl of Pembroke, who had thrown himſelf on the protection of Lewellin, his proviſions were cut off, and being unable to proſecute his intended enterpriſe, he retreated to Groſmont, and encamped his army in the vicinity of the caſtle. During the night a large party of the enemy's horſe ſurpriſed the king's troops aſleep in the trenches, and carried away five hundred horſes, with many waggons, baggage, proviſions, and much treaſure †.

Groſmont Caſtle ſeems to have been the favourite reſidence of the earls of Lancaſter, particularly of Henry, grandſon of Edmund Crouchback, who was ſurnamed Griſmont, from the place of his birth. He probably much enlarged and beautified the ſtructure, as the ſtile of the architecture accords with the æra in which he flouriſhed.

Leland thus deſcribes it, " The caſtle of Groſſemount ſtandeth a three miles above Skenfrith, on the right hand of the Mone, ſecundum decurſum fluvii, half a mile from the ripe. It ſtandeth ſtrongly on a rocke of hill drye ditched, and a village of the ſame name by it. Moſt part of the caſtle walls yet ſtand." In the reign of James I. it was preſented by the jury as in a ſtate of dilapidation ‡.

The lawn on the north and eaſt ſide of the ruins is ſtill called the Caſtle Green; the eaſtern ſide impends over the precipitous banks of the Monnow, which are tufted with a rich grove of wide ſpreading oaks; the river below is ſingularly beautiful; it gleams through the foliage, and ſuddenly turning, bends into the form of a horſe-ſhoe, and almoſt encircles a field of luxuriant paſture. The environs are delightful; the vale ſwells into gentle eminences clothed with trees; on one ſide the view is bounded by the Graig, and the other by the Garway, enriched with the woods and plantations of Kentchurch park.

The church of Groſmont, of which an engraving is annexed, is a large and handſome

* Topographical Dictionary, p. 133.

† Dugdale, vol. 1. p. 604.

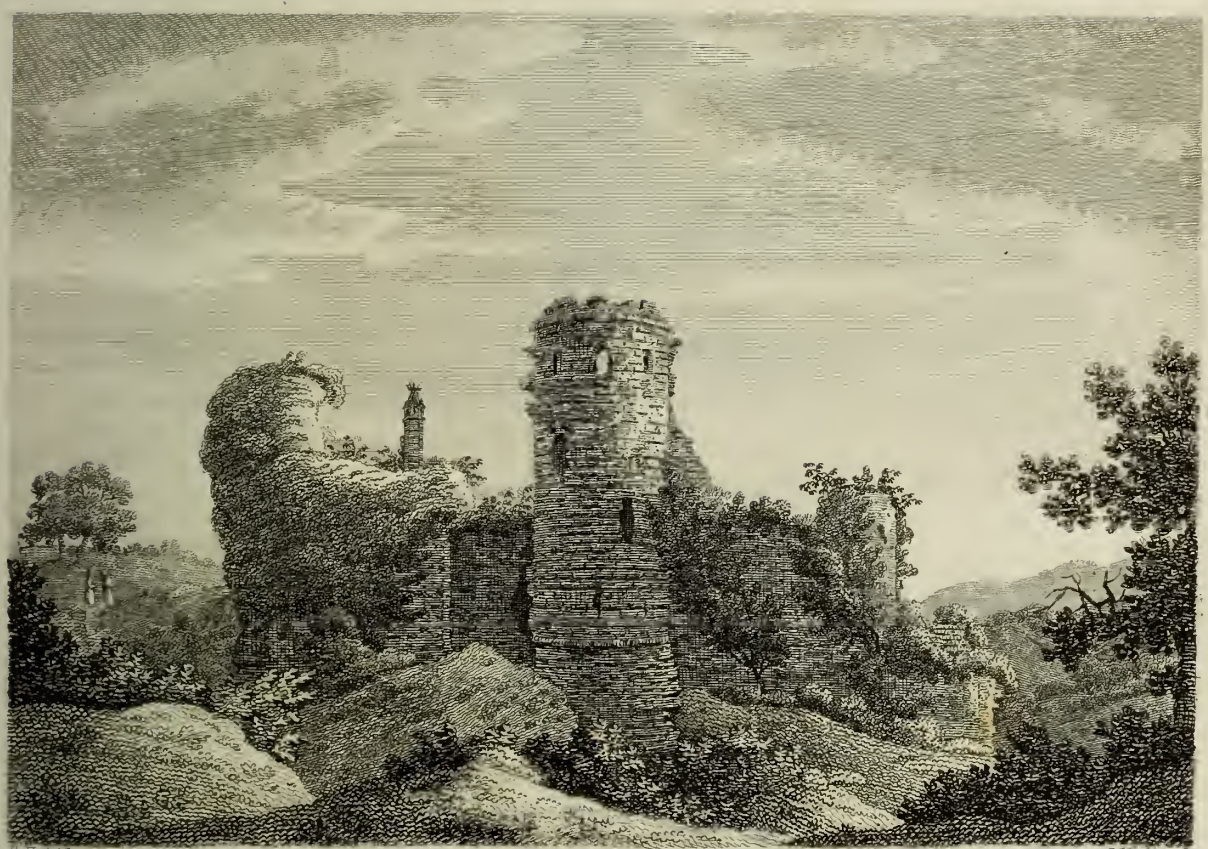
‡ Leland, Itin. vol. 4. p. 176. Archives of the duchy of Lancaſter.

handſome gothic ſtructure, with an octagon tower, on which riſes a hexagon ſpire; the tower and body are white-waſhed, and the ſpire is of brown ſtone uncoloured. The church is built in the form of a cathedral, like a Roman croſs, and conſiſts of a nave, two aiſles, a tranſept, and a chancel.

Groſmont is now a ſmall and neat village; but was once a place of conſiderable importance, and is ſtill governed by a mayor and burgeſſes. The natives boaſt of its former extent, point out ſpots at ſome diſtance which formed ſtreets of the town, and allude to a tradition, that the market was once held on the ſide of the Graig. But a more deciſive proof of its former importance is derived from the numerous cauſeways, which diverge from it in ſeveral directions, and which in any other county I ſhould have conceived to be remains of Roman roads. Two of theſe cauſeways may be traced to the diſtance of a mile, one leading towards the Graig and the Abergavenny road, and the other, towards the extremity of the village, in the direction of Scenfreth and Monmouth, which is ſuppoſed by the natives to have been a ſtreet of the town. Theſe roads are raiſed to the height of ſeveral feet, and though much dilapidated, are ſtill in many places from nine to twelve feet broad; the ſtones are laid one on the other; ſeveral which I meaſured were not leſs than nine feet in length, and of proportionate breadth and thickneſs. Within the memory of the inhabitants, roads of a ſimilar conſtruction led in other directions, but have been demoliſhed for the ſake of the materials.

As Newcaſtle teems with tales of ſprites and elves, ſo Groſmont rings with the atchievements of John of Kent, whoſe exploits almoſt eclipſe the adventures of baron Munkhauſen. Old and young women, men and boys, unite in relating with extreme volubility, and without the ſmalleſt diſagreement, a ſeries of extraordinary tales concerning this wonderful perſonage. Like Dr. Fauſtus, he is ſaid to have made a compact with the devil; but more ſucceſsful than the doctor, he evaded the conditions of his covenant, and outwitted the prince of darkneſs, both in his life and at his death.

Among the early ſpecimens of his magical ſkill, while a farmer's boy in the vicinity, he confined a number of crows, which he was ordered to keep from the corn,



R H del.t W. F. Sc.

GROSMONT CASTLE.

Published March 1. 1800. by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

corn, in an old barn without a roof, that he might viſit Groſmont fair. "And ſure enough," ſaid the old woman, who told me the anecdote, "they were there; for they made a terrible clatter, and would not fly away till Jack himſelf came and releaſed them."

Kentchurch Houſe, the neighbouring ſeat of the Scudamore family, by whom he was hired as a ſervant, became afterwards the ſcene of his marvellous exploits, which it would be tedious to recount. But the feat of all others, which moſt endears his memory to the inhabitants of Groſmont, was the conſtruction of the bridge over the Monnow, leading to Kentchurch; it is ſtill called John of Kent's bridge, and is ſaid to have been built in one night by one of his familiar ſpirits. "But it could not be the devil, ſir," added the relater of the tale, "for he would never have done ſo good an action."

An old tombſtone in the church yard, cloſe to the eaſt wall of the chancel, is ſaid to cover his body, and the legend reports, that he was interred under the wall to evade the condition of his compact; which ſtipulated, that if buried either within the church, or out of the church, he ſhould become the property of Satan. At the time of both my viſits to Groſmont, this tomb was covered with a quantity of rubbiſh, which prevented me from inſpecting it; but I was informed by the clerk, and by many other perſons, that it contained no inſcription.

A cellar at Kentchurch houſe is ſtill ſhewn as the ſtable where he kept horſes, on which he traverſed the air with the ſpeed of Lapland witches; and his portrait on wood, painted in oil, of which an engraving is annexed, is likewiſe there preſerved.

The family of Kentchurch, to whom I applied for the true character and actions of this reputed ſorcerer, could afford no ſpecific or poſitive information. According to tradition, he was a monk, educated at one of the univerſities, and remarkable for his learning; in an age of ignorance, his acquirements excited the aſtoniſhment of his contemporaries, and like friar Bacon he was eſteemed by the vulgar a necromancer. A Latin tranſlation of the Bible, on

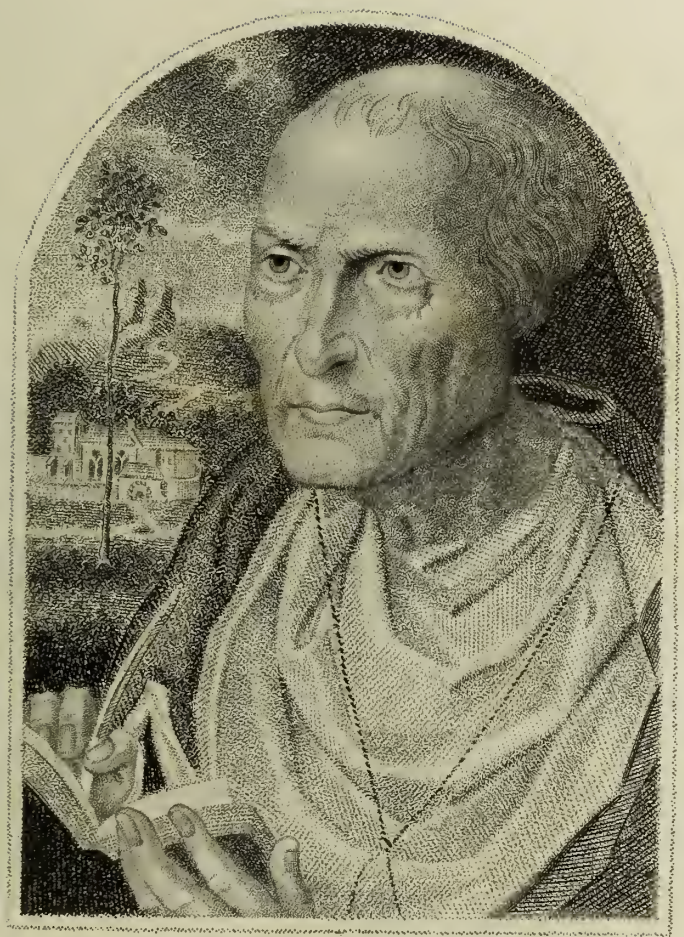
vellum, which was either made or copied by him, was preſerved in the family, but has been long miſlaid or deſtroyed.

Various opinions have been entertained concerning this myſterious perſonage. According to ſome he was the John of Kent, Gwent, or Went, a Franciſcan, thus mentioned by Leland: "He was bred in Wales, and ſo ardently followed the moſt celebrated ſchools of the Franciſcans at Oxford, and made ſuch improvements in profound learning, that he was the wonder of all his religious brethren." According to the antiquities of the Engliſh Franciſcans, he was born at Chepſtow, became profeſſor and doctor of divinity, and on account of his extraordinary virtue was choſen miniſter provincial of the order in England. He wrote many learned and pious works, particularly Commentaries on the Maſter of the Sentences, Sermons to the People, and Diſputed Queſtions. He died in 1348; and the catalogue of the provincial miniſters ſays of him, "Brother John Went, doctor of Oxford, who wrought miracles in his life time, lies at Hereford." Baker, in his Chronicle, mentions another John of Kent among the men of learning in the reign of Henry the third *.

According to others he was a bard of Owen Glendower, and became domeſticated in the family on the defeat of his chieftain, whoſe daughter married a Scudamore.

A tradition however ſtill prevails, that an old wizard, diſguiſed in a ſhepherd's habit, once roamed about in the neighbourhood of Groſmont, frequented Kentchurch Houſe, and was buried privately under the ſtone in the church yard, below the eaſt window of the chancel, which is called John of Kent's tombſtone. A reſpectable perſon, long reſident in the village of Kentchurch, from whom I derived this information, conjectures that this wizard was Owen Glendower himſelf, who, when proſcribed, wandered about in a ſhepherd's habit, and took refuge with one of his daughters. It is likewiſe remarkable, that the place of Owen Glendower's death, or ſepulture, has never been poſitively aſcertained; ſome ſuppoſe, though without ſufficient authority, that he was interred at

* Leland, Scrip. Brit. p. 376. Antiq. of the E. Franciſc. p. 159. Baker's Chronicle, p. 132.



JOHN of KENT

From an Original Picture in the Posession of Jn.° Scudamore Esq.

Pub May 1 1800 by Cadell & Davies Strand.

at Mornington in Herefordſhire, the ſeat of one of his ſons in law, others, with ſtill leſs probability, that he was buried in the cathedral of Bangor *.

* A curious paſſage from the Memoirs of Owen Glendower is here ſubmitted to the reader, p. 73. "A. D. 1415, death put a period to Owen's life and miſery upon the eve of St. Matthew. Some ſay he died at his daughter Scudamore's, others at his daughter Mornington's houſe. They had both harboured him in his forlorn condition. They ſay that he was fain to go up and down diſguiſed in a ſhepherd's habit, to his daughters' and other friends' houſes. Where Owen was buried cannot now be aſcertained. But my countrymen, whether from tradition or conjecture, I know not, ſuppoſe a grave under the great window in the ſouth iſle wall of Bangor cathedral, to be his place of interment. This mural monument is ſingular and much noticed; it lies within the wall, having a hollow arch over it, and a ſhort buttreſs to ſupport it. The ſtone, which is of the grit kind, has no inſcription on it, or any adornment beſides a large ill formed croſs." "Humphrey, a late biſhop of Bangor, and a great antiquary, did not credit this report, but firmly believed, from a paſſage in Giraldus' Itinerary, that it was the mauſoleum of Owen Gwynedd, prince of North Wales. A. D. 1138."

REMARKABLE OAK AT NEWCASTLE

CHAPTER 35.

Excurſion down the Wy.—Characteriſtic Features of the River.—Navigation from Roſs to Monmouth.—Goodrich Caſtle.—Courtfield.—Welſh Bicknor Church.—Sepulchral Effigies of the ſuppoſed Counteſs of Saliſbury.—Proprietors of Welſh Bicknor.—Family of Vaughan.—Coldwell Rocks.—New Weir.—Monmouth.

TO avoid digreſſions, I have hitherto ſolely confined my obſervations to Monmouthſhire; yet as the voyage down the Wy, from Roſs to Chepſtow, is an intereſting object, I ſhall in this ſingle inſtance deviate from my original plan, and give a general account of the whole navigation; although that part of the river which flows from Roſs to Monmouth is principally included in the counties of Gloceſter and Hereford. In company with Mr. Hoare, I went in a poſt chaiſe to Roſs; the road runs near the right bank of the Wy, leaves Dixon church to the eaſt, and after paſſing the frontiers, quits the river, and rejoins it beyond Goodrich, at a little diſtance from Roſs, where we arrived in the evening, and on the following morning commenced our excurſion down the Wy.

The characteriſtics of the Wy are its ſerpentine courſe, from which it is ſuppoſed to derive its name *; the uniform breadth of the channel; and the ſcenery of its banks.

The

* I am favoured by Mr. Owen with the following etymology: The Wy is called Gwy by the Welſh, when the name ſtands alone, but in compoſition the mutable G is dropped, and it then becomes *wy*. The import of *Gwy* abſtractedly is, a flowing or ſtreaming, a circulating or going about, and thence it ſignifies water. This term is much uſed in the compoſition of words, particularly the names of rivers and of water-fowl.

Example:

Conwy, (con-gwy) the chief ſtream.
Tawy, the ſpreading ſtream.
Elwy, the ſonorous ſtream.
Llugwy, the duſky ſtream.
Mynwy, or the Monnow.
Onwy, the aſh-water.
Gwyach, a ſnipe.
Gwydd, a gooſe.

The ſerpentine courſe is ſo conſiderable, that the diſtance from Roſs to Chepſtow, which in a direct line is not more than ſixteen miles and four furlongs, is thirty-ſeven miles and ſeven furlongs by water *. The effects of theſe numerous windings are various and ſtriking; the ſame objects preſent themſelves, are loſt and recovered with different accompaniments, and in different points of view: thus the ruins of a caſtle, hamlets emboſomed in trees, the ſpire of a church burſting from the wood, forges impending over the water, and broken maſſes of rock fringed with herbage, ſometimes are ſeen on one ſide, ſometimes on the other, and form the fore ground or back ground of a landſcape. Thus alſo the river itſelf here ſtretches in a continuous line, there waves in a curve, between gentle ſlopes and fertile meadows, or is ſuddenly concealed in a deep abyſs, under the gloom of impending woods.

Another characteriſtic of the Wy, is the almoſt uniform breadth of the channel, which ſeems to have been ſcooped by the hand of nature, in the midſt of ſurrounding hills. Hence in the whole courſe of this navigation, except in the vicinity of Roſs and till it receives the tide, the ſtream, unlike other mountain torrents, is not ſcattered over a wide and ſtony bed, but rolls in one compact and accumulated body. This uniformity of breadth is however broken by the perpetual ſinuoſity of the river, and enlivened by the diverſified ſcenery of the banks, which forms the third characteriſtic of the Wy.

The banks for the moſt part riſe abruptly from the edge of the water, and are clothed with foreſts, or broken into cliffs. In ſome places they approach ſo near, that the river occupies the whole intermediate ſpace, and nothing is

* By Water.

	M.	F.	P.
From Roſs to Goodrich caſtle	4	4	0
To Coldwell	7	0	0
To New Weir	4	2	0
To Monmouth	5	1	0
From Roſs to Monmouth	20	7	0
To Tintern	10	4	0
To Chepſtow	6	4	60
From Roſs to Chepſtow	37	7	60

By Land.

	M.	F.	P.
From Roſs by the turnpike to Monmouth	10	0	0
In a ſtraight line, or as the crow flies	9	0	10
From Roſs to Chepſtow by the turnpike	24	0	0
By Coleford	21	0	0
In a ſtraight line	16	4	0

The baſe or ſuppoſed tunnel of the hill, between Coldwell and the New Weir, is 600 yards, the circuit of the river 4 miles 2 furlongs.

Theſe meaſures were taken by Mr. Taylor, author of the Surveys of the Counties of Hereford and Gloceſter, and are given in Heath's Excurſion down the Wy, p. 7.

is ſeen but wood, rocks, and water; in others, they alternately recede, and the eye catches an occaſional glimpſe of hamlets, ruins, and detached buildings, partly ſeated on the margin of the ſtream, and partly ſcattered on the riſing grounds. The general character of the ſcenery, however, is wildneſs and ſolitude; and if we except the populous diſtrict of Monmouth, no river perhaps flows for ſo long a courſe through a well cultivated country, the banks of which exhibit ſo few habitations.

We embarked at ſeven in the morning in a convenient veſſel, capable of containing eight perſons beſides the boatmen, and provided with an awning, which as the weather was unclouded and ſultry, we found a good defence againſt the rays of an Auguſt ſun. We paſſed under the ſtone bridge, leaving on our right the ruins of Wilton Caſtle, and as the water was low, ſaw but few objects worthy of attention, except the ſpire of Roſs church towering above the trees, and Penyard hill covered with wood *.

At a ſmall farm called Weir End, the river turns abruptly, and flows under the precipitous ſides of Pencraig hill mantled with trees to the margin of the river. From this place commences that intereſting combination of ſcenery, which diſtinguiſhes the banks of the Wy. We ſoon afterwards deſcried the embattled turrets of Goodrich Caſtle; the firſt view of theſe ruins, which preſent themſelves at a ſudden bend of the river, crowning the ſummit of an eminence clothed with wood, is extremely grand and intereſting; they vaniſh and reappear at different intervals, and as we paſſed under them aſſumed a leſs majeſtic, but a more pictureſque aſpect.

Having breakfaſted at a ferry-houſe, at the foot of the hill on which the caſtle is ſituated, we aſcended the ſteep ſides of the acclivity, through rich groves of oak and elm, to the ruins, which on our approach reaſſumed their former grandeur. I ſhall not attempt to deſcribe theſe remains, or to detail their hiſtory; but refer the reader to an accurate deſcription, illuſtrated with a ground plot, and ſeveral intereſting views, publiſhed by Bonnor. I ſhall only obſerve, that among all

* I have ſimply deſcribed this part of the river as it appeared to me; but at particular times, when the river is high, the ſtream is more rapid, and the cultivated meads in the vicinity, backed by riſing hills, appear to advantage.

all the accounts of the caſtle given to the public, William Herbert, earl of Pembroke is not mentioned as a proprietor, although he obtained from Edward the fourth, among many other poſſeſſions, the caſtle and manor of Goodrich, with the lordſhip and manor of Urchenfield *.

Deſcending from the caſtle, we paſſed through ſome pleaſant meadows to a farm houſe, once the ſite of a priory, and traced, in the gothic windows and part of the chapel, the remains of the ancient ſtructure.

Re-embarking, we continued our courſe, and were gently carried down the ſtream by the current. The ſcenery is mild and placid, the river is bounded on each ſide by wooded acclivities, above which to the left towers the ſpire of Ruerdean church peeping from the midſt of the foreſt, and near Lidbrook the ſlopes of the hills are thickly ſprinkled with cottages, delightfully ſituated in the midſt of ſurrounding copſes. From Lidbrook large quantities of coal are ſent to Roſs and Hereford; and we paſſed ſeveral barges towed by ten or eleven men, which by great exertions are drawn to Hereford in two days. Hitherto the county of Hereford uniformly occupied both ſides of the river, but a little beyond Lidbrook the diſtrict of Monmouthſhire, called the pariſh of Welſh Bicknor, extends along the right bank. The boatmen pointed out the north-eaſtern boundary, which is marked by a hedge, ſeparating a common from a wood, at the extremity of Coppet hill; the common is in Herefordſhire, the wood in Monmouthſhire.

Here I diſembarked, and walked to Courtfield, a ſeat belonging to the family of Vaughan, which is not unnoticed in the pages of hiſtory. According to tradition it is the place where Henry the fifth was nurſed, under the care of the counteſs of Saliſbury, from which circumſtance the original name of Greyfield is ſaid to have been changed into Courtfield †. The houſe is of a much more modern date than the period of Henry the fifth, and does not contain any thing which recals the memory of thoſe times. The tattered remains of a rich bed, called the bed of Henry the fifth, were long ſhewn at this place, and his old cradle was preſerved at the houſe of the Rev. Mr. Ball, rector of Newland, in the vicinity,

* Dugdale's Baronage, article Herbert.

† This is probably an erroneous tradition; for *Court* was a common name for a manor houſe, where the lord of the manor held his court.

nity, which deſcended to him from his anceſtor, one of the rockers; it is now in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Whitehead, of French Hay, near Briſtol, and from the engraving given by Bonnor, ſeems to be a curious piece of antiquity.

Welſh Bicknor church, about half a mile from Courtfield, contains a curious ſepulchral effigies, without an inſcription or coat of arms, which has much exerciſed the ingenuity of antiquaries; it is a recumbent figure of a woman in ſtone, placed on the floor, and according to tradition repreſents the counteſs of Saliſbury, who reſided at Courtfield, and was the reputed nurſe of Henry the fifth. She is dreſſed in a looſe robe; and at her head were two figures, one of which is eraſed; but the other repreſents an angel *.

The perſon here interred was probably Margaret, daughter and heir of Thomas lord Monthermer; ſhe eſpouſed ſir John de Montacute, ſecond ſon of William firſt earl of Saliſbury, *and held the manor of Welſh Bicknor* until her death, which happened in 1395. Henry was born at Monmouth, in 1387, and being a ſickly child, was probably ſent to Courtfield, in the pariſh of Welſh Bicknor, for a change of air, under the care of lady Montacute, who was equally with the noble infant deſcended from Edward the firſt. Although ſhe was not counteſs of Saliſbury herſelf, yet being daughter in law of one earl, ſiſter in law of another, and mother of a third, ſhe may have been eaſily miſcalled by that title. On comparing the effigies with others in Gough's ſepulchral monuments, the ſculpture accords with the ſtyle of the æra in which Margaret died.

Sir John de Montacute, her ſon, doing homage, had livery of all her lands; among which was the *manor of Welſh Bicknor*. On the deceaſe of his uncle William, without iſſue, in 1397, he ſucceeded to the earldom of Saliſbury, was appointed earl marſhal of England, became chief of the Lollards, and was maſſacred in 1400 by the populace at Cirenceſter, for a ſuppoſed attempt to reinſtate Richard the ſecond on the throne. Being attainted, his property was confiſcated, and the manor of Welſh Bicknor, with his other poſſeſſions, veſted in the crown. It was afterwards reſtored to the family, and conveyed through Alice his grand-daughter to her ſon Richard, the great earl of Warwick and

* An engraving of the figure is annexed, from a drawing taken on the ſpot, in which a few dilapidated parts, of no material conſequence, have been ſupplied by the artiſt.

Birrell

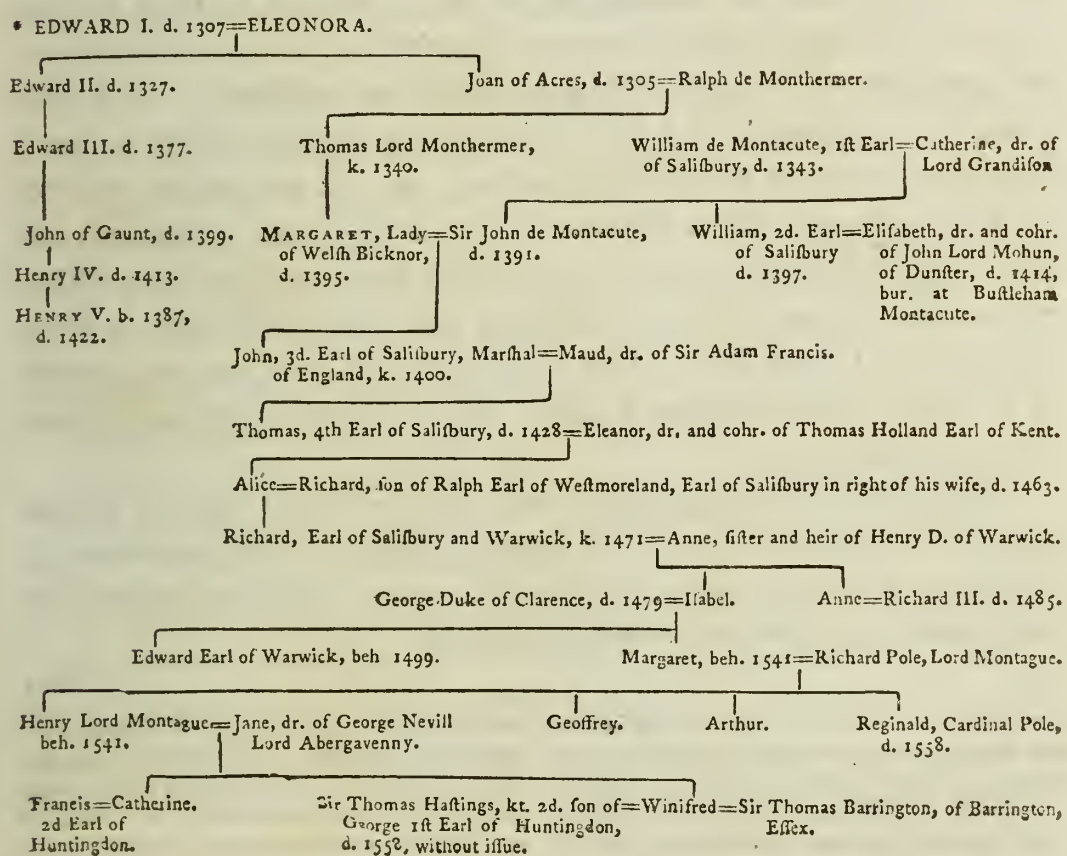
MONUMENTAL EFFIGIES

in the Church of Welch Bicknor

and Saliſbury. During the numerous attainders and confiſcations, which overwhelmed his unfortunate family, Welſh Bicknor was alternately poſſeſſed by the crown and his deſcendants.

The laſt perſon of his illuſtrious race mentioned by Dugdale as poſſeſſing Welſh Bicknor, is Margaret, daughter of the duke of Clarence, and wife of ſir Richard Pole, lord Montague. After witneſſing the impriſonment, attainder, and execution of her brother the earl of Warwick, and of her ſon Henry lord Montague, ſhe was beheaded in 1541; but in 1553, her grand-daughters were reſtored in blood and honour *.

From



From this period I can diſcover no documents concerning the proprietors of Welſh Bicknor, until I find the manor and manſion of Courtfield in the poſſeſſion of the Vaughan * family. It appears from a pedigree in the Heralds' office, that in the reign of Eliſabeth, John Vaughan of Clifford Park in the county of Hereford, was lord of Welſh Bicknor. He married Anne, daughter of John Powell of Perthîr, and left one ſon, Richard, who died in 1697, aged 96, and who prevented the extinction of the family, by taking a ſecond wife, at the advanced age of 75; of which event a ſingular anecdote is related in the family. His only ſon who was ſettled at Huntſholme, having been long married without iſſue, the father frequently rallied him on the ſubject. Walking out with him one day, he ſaid, "Son, let me ſee if you can leap over this gate;" the ſon attempted, but did not ſucceed; on which the old gentleman vaulted over with great agility, and exclaimed, "As I have cleared the gate for you, ſo I believe I muſt e'en provide you with an heir." Soon after this event he fulfilled his promiſe, and eſpouſing Agatha, daughter of John Berrington, eſq, of Cowarne Court, in the county of Hereford, had three daughters, and a ſon named John, who, by the death of his elder brother, became ſole heir, and left iſſue by his ſecond wife, Eliſabeth, daughter of Philip Jones, eſq. of Lanarth Court; from his ſecond ſon, Richard, who was a general in the Spaniſh ſervice, William Vaughan, eſq. the preſent proprietor of Courtfield is deſcended.

A ſilver chalice, belonging to the church, bears the date of 1146; it is in the form of a vaſe, and the ſhape is not inelegant; had not the date aſcertained it, the zig zag ornaments, with which the edge is chaſed, would have proved it the workmanſhip of the Saxon, or early Norman æra.

We

* I ſhall not attempt to trace the early pedigree of the Vaughan family, which is undoubtedly of high antiquity; I ſhall only obſerve, that as the Vaughans of Clifford, as well as thoſe of Bredwardin, Hergeſt, Cliro, Llewes, Tretowre, and Talgarth, were deſcended from ſir Roger Vaughan, firſt huſband of Gladys, daughter of ſir David Gam, and as the preſent proprietors of Courtfield ſtill poſſeſs Cliro and and part of Llewes, the Vaughans of Courtfield are probably deſcended from the ſame illuſtrious anceſtry. But as the Herbert arms ſeem to have been borne by the family from the earlieſt reſidence in this place to the preſent time, ſome perſons have ſuppoſed them a collateral branch of the Herberts. The creſt, however, is that of the Vaughans; a child's head couped, the neck entwined with a ſerpent.

We re-embarked near the church; a little beyond the inſulated diſtrict of Monmouthſhire terminates, and the boatmen pointed out a fragment of rock lying in the bed of the river, which they called the county rock, and which marks the junction of the three counties; from this point the right bank lies in Herefordſhire, and the left in Gloceſterſhire. From the church of Welſh Bicknor, we proceeded without interruption to the New Weir; during this courſe, the ſcenery of the banks aſſumed a new character; hitherto it was of a mild and pleaſing caſt; the rocks which formed the riſing banks, were ſo entirely clothed with trees, as to be ſeldom viſible, or only ſeen occaſionally through the impending foliage; but in this part of the navigation, the rock became a primary object, and the ſtream waſhed the baſe of ſtupendous cliffs. Among theſe, the moſt remarkable are Coldwell Rocks, and Symond's Gate, forming a majeſtic amphitheatre, appearing, vaniſhing, and re-appearing, in different ſhapes, and with different combinations of wood and water; at one time ſtarting from the edge of the river, and forming a perpendicular rampart; at another towering above woods and hills, like the battlements of an immenſe caſtle, as much more ſublime than Goodrich, as nature is ſuperior to art. The weather was peculiarly favourable, the ſky clear and ſerene, the ſun ſhone in full ſplendour, illumined the projecting faces of the rock, and deepened the ſhade of the impervious woods, which mantle the oppoſite banks.

Here the meandring courſe of the river is peculiarly ſtriking; from the bottom of Symond's Gate to the New Weir, the direct line is not more than 600 yards *; but the diſtance by water exceeds four miles. At this ſpot the company uſually diſembark, mount the ſummit, and deſcending on the other ſide, rejoin the boat at the New Weir. From the top of Symond's Gate, which is not leſs than 2000 feet in height above the ſurface of the water, the ſpectator enjoys a ſingular view of the numerous mazes of the Wy, and looks down on the river, watering each ſide of the narrow and precipitous peninſula on which he ſtands. I continued the navigation, however, becauſe I was unwilling to loſe the

* Determined by Mr. Taylor. Heath's Voyage down the Wye, p. 7.

the beauties of the ever ſhifting ſcenery, and preferred a ſucceſſion of home views on the banks beneath, to the moſt boundleſs expanſe of proſpect from above.

In this part the ſides of the hills and the bed of the river were ſtrewed with enormous fragments of rock, which almoſt obſtructed the paſſage of the boat, and rendered the current extremely rapid. For ſome way the fore ground of the landſcape was comparatively tame and dull; but the back ground was ſtill formed by the ſublime rocks of Coldwell. At the ferry of Hunſton, which is only one mile from Goodrich by land, but ſeven by water, the rocks diſappear, and are ſucceeded by a ridge of eminences, covered with an intermixture of heath and foreſt, until we paſſed the pleaſant village of Whitchurch, and reached the New Weir, at which place a ſluice is formed for the paſſage of boats.

The views at the New Weir equal in romantic beauty the ſcenery at Coldwell rocks; the deep vale in which the river flows, is bounded on one ſide by the Great Doward, a ſloping hill ſprinkled with lime kilns and cottages, and overhanging ſome iron works ſeated on the margin of the water; on the other riſes the chain of precipices forming the ſide of the peninſula, which is oppoſite to Coldwell rocks, and vies with them in ruggedneſs and ſublimity. Near the iron works, a weir ſtretches tranſverſely acroſs the ſtream, over which the river, above ſmooth and tranquil, falls in no inconſiderable cataract, and roaring over fragments of rock, is gradually loſt in the midſt of impending woods.

The remainder of our navigation preſented a ſucceſſion of beautiful ſcenes, perpetually varied by the undulations of the hills, the richneſs of the woods, and the abrupt windings of the river, until we reached the bottom of the Little Doward, whoſe precipitous ſides preſent a rugged rampart of rock. Turning round its ſouthern extremity, we paſſed under the Lays, a houſe delightfully ſituated at the foot of the precipice, overlooking the water, and caught a long reach of the river, terminating in a perſpective view of Monmouth bridge, and part of the town, with the ſpire riſing amid tufts of trees.

Monmouthſhire here commences on the left bank, with the rich groves of

Hadnock;

Hadnock *; on the right, the county is divided from Herefordſhire by a ſmall brook, which croſſes the turnpike road leading from Monmouth to Roſs, and falls into the Wy. We paſſed on one ſide a chain of wooded eminences, which ſtretch from Hadnock to the Kymin, on the other a ſucceſſion of rich meadows, with the ſmall but ſequeſtered church of Dixon, ſtanding near the margin of the river, and finiſhed the firſt day's navigation at Monmouth.

* Hadnock manor once formed part of the duchy of Lancaſter, and was compriſed in the manor of Monmouth. It appears from the archives, that in the ſixth of Eliſabeth, an order was iſſued from the chancery court, "to bound out the demeſnes of Hadnock from the copyhold;" and in the twenty-ſeventh, a commiſſion "was ordered to ſurvey Hadnock woods." In the reign of Eliſabeth, Charles Herbert, ſon of ſir William Herbert of Coldbrook, by Jane, daughter of Thomas ap John of Treowen, was ſeated at Hadnock; his ſon Giles married Eleanor, daughter of Henry Herbert of Wonaſtow, by lady Lucy Somerſet. Sandford, p. 348. It is now the reſidence of the Rev. Dr. Griffin.

CHAPTER 36.

Navigation of the Wy.—From Monmouth to Tintern.—Ruins of the Abbey Church.—From Tintern to Chepſtow.

WE embarked on the ſubſequent morning at nine, below Monmouth bridge, and continued our navigation; the banks on each ſide are low, and the country level, but bounded at a little diſtance by ridges of hills; on the right towered the Kymin crowned by the pavilion, on the left we ſkirted the pleaſant meadow of Chippenham, and paſſed the mouth of the Monnow, which falls tranquilly into the Wy. Behind, we looked back upon a pleaſing view of the town, and before the hanging woods of Troy Park formed a delightful object in the landſcape, as they roſe above the banks of the Trothy, which poured rapidly through a deep and narrow channel, and diſcoloured with its muddy ſtream the purer current of the Wy.

About two miles from Monmouth, a ſmall ſtream called Redbrook ſeparates Monmouthſhire from Gloceſterſhire, from which point the Wy continues the boundary of the two counties; here is a ſmall village, where a ferry, and ſome iron and tin works, give animation to the romantic ſcenery. Beyond Redbrook the river forms a grand ſweep, and flows in an abyſs, between two ranges of lofty hills, thickly overſpread with woods, the gloom of which was ſoftened by the diverſified tints of the autumnal foliage.

In a few places the banks are leſs ſteep, expand into gentle undulations, are ſkirted by narrow meadows, and admit occaſional views of the diſtant country; among which the church and caſtle of St. Briaval's, crowning the ſummit of an

Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W. Byrne sculp.t

GENERAL VIEW OF TINTERN ABBEY.

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eminence in the foreſt of Dean, are pleaſing objects. We were then hurried along a rapid current, called Big's Weir, where the river eddies over fragments of rock, leaving only a narrow ſpace for the paſſage of boats. In this picturesque ſpot the ſeat of general Rooke, member for the county of Monmouth, ſtands on the left bank, and on the oppoſite ſide Pilſon Houſe appears in the back ground. From hence the river winds by the beautiful hamlet of Landogo, ſituated in a ſmall plain tufted with woods, and backed by an amphitheatre of lofty hills; the view of the church peeping through the trees is extremely picturesque, and is well repreſented by Mr. Ireland *.

Brook's Weir, a village ſituated on the left bank, nearly half way between Monmouth and Chepſtow, exhibits the appearance of trade and activity. Numerous veſſels from 80 to 90 tons were anchored near the ſhore, waiting for the tide, which uſually flows no higher than this place. Theſe veſſels principally belong to Briſtol, and aſcend the river for the purpoſe of receiving the commodities brought from Hereford and Monmouth, in the barges of the Wy, which on account of the ſhoals do not draw more than five or ſix inches of water.

During the courſe of the navigation from Roſs, we paſſed ſeveral ſmall fiſhing craft, called Truckles or Coricles †, ribbed with laths or baſket work, and covered with pitched canvaſs. Like a canoe, the coricle holds only one perſon, who navigates it by means of a paddle with one hand, and fiſhes with the other; theſe boats are ſo light, that the fiſhermen throw them on their ſhoulders and carry them home.

We diſembarked about half a mile above the village of Tintern, and followed the ſinuous courſe of the Wy. As we advanced to the village, we paſſed ſome picturesque ruins hanging over the edge of the water, which are ſuppoſed to have formed part of the abbot's villa, and other buildings occupied by the monks; ſome of theſe remains are converted into dwellings and cottages, others are interſperſed among the iron founderies and habitations.

The

* See Picturesque Views on the Wye, p. 131. † The name coricle is ſuppoſed to be derived from corium a hide, with which ſome of theſe boats were occaſionally covered.

The firſt appearance of the celebrated remains of the abbey church, did not equal my expectations, as they are half concealed by mean buildings, and the triangular ſhape of the gable ends has a formal appearance.

After paſſing a miſerable row of cottages, and forcing our way through a crowd of importunate beggars, we ſtopped to examine the rich architecture of the weſt front; but the door being ſuddenly opened, the inſide perſpective of the church called forth an inſtantaneous burſt of admiration, and filled me with delight, ſuch as I ſcarcely ever before experienced on a ſimilar occaſion. The eye paſſes rapidly along a range of elegant gothic pillars, and glancing under the ſublime arches which ſupported the tower, fixes itſelf on the ſplendid relics of the eaſtern window, the grand termination of the choir.

From the length of the nave, the height of the walls, the aſpiring form of the pointed arches, and the ſize of the eaſt window, which cloſes the perſpective, the firſt impreſſions are thoſe of grandeur and ſublimity. But as theſe emotions ſubſide, and we deſcend from the contemplation of the whole to the examination of the parts, we are no leſs ſtruck with the regularity of the plan, the lightneſs of the architecture, and the delicacy of the ornaments; we feel that elegance is its characteriſtic no leſs than grandeur, and that the whole is a combination of the beautiful and the ſublime.

This church was conſtructed in the ſhape of a cathedral, and is an excellent ſpecimen of gothic architecture in its greateſt purity. The roof is fallen in, and the whole ruin open to the ſky, but the ſhell is entire; all the pillars are ſtanding, except thoſe which divided the nave from the northern aiſle, and their ſituation is marked by the remains of the baſes. The four lofty arches which ſupported the tower, ſpring high in the air, reduced to narrow rims of ſtone, yet ſtill preſerving their original form. The arches and pillars of the choir and tranſept are complete; the ſhapes of all the windows may be ſtill diſcriminated, and the frame of the weſt window is in perfect preſervation; the deſign of the tracery is extremely elegant, and when decorated with painted glaſs, muſt have produced a fine effect. Critics who cenſure this window as too broad for its height, do not conſider, that it was not intended for a particular

INSIDE OF TINTERN ABBEY, WEST VIEW.

particular object, but to harmoniſe with the *general* plan ; and had the architect diminiſhed the breadth in proportion to the height, the grand effect of the perſpective would have been conſiderably leſſened.

The general form of the eaſt window is entire, but the frame is much dilapidated ; it occupies the whole breadth of the choir, and is divided into two large and equal compartments *, by a ſlender ſhaft not leſs than fifty feet in height, which has an appearance of ſingular lightneſs, and in particular points of view ſeems ſuſpended in the air.

Nature has added her ornaments to the decorations of art ; ſome of the windows are wholly obſcured, others partially ſhaded with tufts of ivy or edged with lighter foliage ; the tendrils creep along the walls, wind round the pillars, wreath the capitals, or hanging down in cluſters obſcure the ſpace beneath.

Inſtead of dilapidated fragments overſpread with weeds and choked with brambles, the floor is covered with a ſmooth turf, which by keeping the original level of the church, exhibits the beauty of its proportions, heightens the effect of the grey ſtone, gives a relief to the cluſtered pillars, and affords an eaſy acceſs to every part. Ornamented fragments of the roof, remains of cornices and columns, rich pieces of ſculpture, ſepulchral ſtones and mutilated figures † of monks and heroes, whoſe aſhes repoſe within theſe walls, are ſcattered on the greenſward, and contraſt preſent deſolation with former ſplendor ‡.

Although the exterior appearance of the ruins is not equal to the inſide view, yet in ſome poſitions, particularly to the eaſt, they preſent themſelves with conſiderable effect. While ſir Richard Hoare was employed in ſketching the

* William of Worceſter deſcribes it as divided into eight compartments, and ornamented with the arms of Roger de Bigod the founder. Itin. p. 79. The height of the window is 60 feet, and the breadth 27. The height of the eaſt, weſt, north and ſouth windows, and of the four center arches which ſupported the tower, from the ground to the point of the arch, is 67 feet.

† Among other ſepulchral figures is the mutilated effigies of a man in a coat of mail, with his ſhield on his left arm, which is erroneouſly ſuppoſed to repreſent Richard Strongbow, earl of Pembroke, and great nephew of Walter de Clare, the founder of the abbey, who, according to Leland, was buried in the Chapter houſe of Gloceſter. According to Groſe his right hand has five fingers and a thumb, but the ſculpture is ſo rude, that I could not aſcertain whether it has four or five fingers.

‡ The plan of this church is given on the ſame plate with that of Lanthony Abbey. See chap. 22.

the north weſtern ſide, I croſſed the ferry and walked down the ſtream about half a mile. From this point the ruins aſſuming a new character, ſeem to occupy a gentle eminence and impend over the river, without the intervention of a ſingle cottage to obſtruct the view. The grand eaſt window, wholly covered with ſhrubs and half mantled with ivy, riſes like the portal of a majeſtic edifice embowered in wood. Through this opening and along the viſta of the church, the cluſters of ivy, which twine round the pillars or hang ſuſpended from the arches, reſemble tufts of trees, while the thick mantle of foliage, ſeen through the tracery of the weſt window, forms a continuation of the perſpective, and appears like an interminable foreſt.

The abbey of Tintern was founded in 1131, for Ciſtertian monks, by Walter de Clare, and dedicated to St. Mary. On his death without iſſue, the patronage was transferred to Gilbert, ſurnamed Strongbow, who became lord of Striguil or Chepſtow, and was created earl of Pembroke. The endowments of the abbey were increaſed by Gilbert and his ſucceſſors in the lordſhip of Chepſtow *. William of Worceſter has preſerved the names of the benefactors, among whom was Roger de Bigod, earl of Norfolk, who built the church. He likewiſe informs us, that in October 1268, the abbot and monks entered the choir of the new church, and celebrated the firſt maſs at the high altar †. Probably, however, only part of the edifice was completed, as during this period it was not unuſual to conſtruct and conſecrate the choir, and afterwards complete the remainder ‡. This opinion is corroborated by the ſtyle of the architecture in ſome parts of the church, particularly in the tracery of the weſt window, which ſeems poſterior to the æra of the dedication.

At the time of the diſſolution the abbey contained thirteen religious, and the eſtates were valued at £.132. 1*s.* 4*d.* per annum, according to Dugdale, but according to Speed, at £.256. 11*s.* 6*d.* The ſite was granted in 28 of Henry VIII. to Henry ſecond earl of Worceſter §, who poſſeſſed the caſtle of Chepſtow, and is now

* For the proprietors of Chepſtow caſtle, ſee chapter 39.

† It. p. 77, 132.

‡ Bentham's Ely.

§ Dugdale, Monaſt. vol. 1. p. 721. 724. In Steevens's Supplement, vol. 2. p. 57. there is a plan of the church, and an elevation of the weſt end.—Tanner, art. Monmouthſhire.

Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W. Byrne sculp.t

INSIDE OF TINTERN ABBEY, EAST VIEW.

now the property of the duke of Beaufort. The picturesque appearance of the ruins is considerably heightened by their position in a valley watered by the meandring Wy, and backed by wooded eminences, which rise abruptly from the river, unite a pleasing intermixture of wildness and culture, and temper the gloom of monastic solitude with the beauties of nature.

From Tintern the Wy assumes the character of a tide river; the water is no longer transparent, and except at high tide the banks are covered with slime; to enjoy therefore the full beauty of this part of the navigation, the traveller should seize the moment in which it begins to ebb, when the height and fulness of the river, aided by the picturesque scenery, compensates for the discoloured appearance of the stream.

The impressions of pleasing melancholy, which I received from contemplating the venerable ruins, were increased by the deep solitude and romantic grandeur of the woods and rocks overhanging the river, and heightened by the gloom of a clouded atmosphere.

Hitherto the Wy did not pursue so serpentine a course or present such naked and stupendous cliffs as during yesterday's navigation; but in the vicinity of Piercefield, the sinuosities re-appear, and the rocks do not yield in majestic ruggedness to those of Coldwell and the New Weir. The long line of Banagor crags forms a perpendicular rampart on the left bank, wholly bare except where a few shrubs spring from the crevices or fringe their summits; on the opposite side, the river is skirted by narrow slips of rich pasture rising into wooded acclivities, on which towers the Wynd* cliff, a perpendicular mass of rock, overhung with thickets.

At this place the Wy turns abruptly round the fertile peninsula of Lancaut, under the stupendous amphitheatre of Piercefield cliffs, starting from the edge of the water; here wholly mantled with wood, there jutting in bold and fantastic projections †, which appear like enormous buttresses formed by the hand of nature. At the further extremity of this peninsula, the river again turns, and stretches in a long reach, between the white and towering

* Supposed to be a corruption of Wy-cliff.

† Some of these projections are called the twelve Apostles, and another St. Peter's Thumb.

towering cliffs of Lancaut, and the rich acclivities of Piercefield woods. In the midſt of theſe grand and pictureſque ſcenes the embattled turrets of Chepſtow caſtle burſt upon our ſight; and as we glided under the perpendicular crag, we looked up with aſtoniſhment to the maſſive walls impending over the edge of the precipice, and appearing like a continuation of the rock itſelf; before ſtretched the long and pictureſque bridge, and the view was cloſed by a ſemicircular range of red cliffs, tinted with pendent foliage, which form the left bank of the river.

PLAN OF CHEPSTOW

T Morrice Surv.& del.

Pub 20 July 1800. by Cadell & Davies Strand

Hardin

CHAPTER 37.

Chepſtow.—Situation.—Height of the Tide.—Bridge.—Trade.—Ancient Priory.—Church.—Priory of St. Kynemark.—Remarkable Well.—Situation of the old Bridge.

CHEPSTOW is ſeated in a deep hollow incloſed by impending hills, and occupies the ſide of a declivity ſhelving to the right bank of the Wy, which here bends in a ſemicircular form. From this poſition the approach to it from the New Paſſage is extremely ſingular; at the diſtance of only a quarter of a mile, the maſts of the ſhipping ſeem to riſe in the midſt of an immenſe ſtone quarry, of which the perpendicular cliffs of the Wy form the ſide, but not a ſingle houſe can be diſtinguiſhed. On reaching the brow of the eminence, the town ſuddenly appears ſhelving to the bank of the river, and a ſingular intermixture of buildings, veſſels, cliffs, water, and wood is preſented to view. A rapid deſcent leads through an old gothic gateway *, which formed the entrance of the ancient town, to the market place, and from thence to the bridge over the Wy.

The appearance of the town is cheerful and animated, the inhabitants ſeem active and induſtrious, and the population amounts to near 2,000 ſouls †.

I have

* At this gate a toll is demanded from all perſons, not holding, as it is called, a freedom under the duchy, who bring any articles, however ſmall in quantity or value, for ſale, or who have purchaſed live ſtock at fairs, and paſs through the gate. The right is in the duke of Beaufort, but is now leaſed out on a life or lives.

† A liſt of the births and burials in the town of Chepſtow during a period of ten years:

	Births.	Burials.		Births.	Burials.
1789	49	32	1794	38	35
1790	44	42	1795	49	50
1791	42	54	1796	48	39
1792	41	37	1797	56	39
1793	43	68	1798	54	58

In 1798, the number of males from 16 to 60, capable of bearing arms, amounted to 400.

I have ſeldom viſited any town whoſe pictureſque ſituation ſurpaſſes that of Chepſtow: it is truly obſerved by my friend Mr. Wyndham, "the beauties are ſo uncommonly excellent, that the moſt exact critic in landſcape would ſcarcely wiſh to alter a poſition in the aſſemblage of woods, cliffs, ruins, and water."

The eminences which tower over the town are thickly overſpread with wood; among which the rich groves of Piercefield riſe conſpicuous.

The romantic cliffs of the Wy are here extremely pictureſque, particularly the ridge, which forms the left bank of the river below the bridge; it is lofty, perpendicular, of a concave form, and tinted with various hues; white, grey, red, and yellow are beautifully blended, while green is ſuperadded by the foliage of the oak that ſkirts the top and ſhades the ſides, or by large cluſters of ivy, ſtarting from the crevices at all heights and twining in all directions.

The ponderous remains of the caſtle form a grand and prominent feature in this diverſified ſcenery; they cover a large tract of ground, and ſtretch along the brow of the perpendicular cliff which impends over the Wy.

On my arrival at Chepſtow I walked to the bridge; it was low water, and I looked down on the river ebbing between forty and fifty feet beneath; ſix hours after it roſe near forty feet, almoſt reached the floor of the bridge, and flowed upwards with great rapidity. The channel in this place being narrow in proportion to the Severn, and confined between perpendicular cliffs, the great riſe and fall of the river are peculiarly manifeſt; hence it has been echoed from one publication to another, that the tide at Chepſtow is higher than in any other place in the world, at an average 50 or 60 feet, and on ſome extraordinary occaſions not leſs than 70.

To aſcertain the truth of this aſſertion I plumbed the river, with the aſſiſtance of Mr. Jennings and an experienced boatman, at high tide on the fourth of September. The perpendicular height, from the bottom of the channel to the ſurface of the water, was 47 feet 3 inches, from the water to the floor of the bridge 6 feet, and 2 feet 10 inches to a notch in the rail,

BRIDGE & CASTLE AT CHEPSTOW.

which marks the greateſt riſe; hence the higheſt tide during the memory of the preſent generation does not exceed 56 feet 1 inch, which though very conſiderable, is by no means greater than that of many other places on the globe. Perhaps the rapidity of the flood up the Severn and Wy is more remarkable than its height; it is high water at Chepſtow, as Mr. Jennings informs me, before it is at the Pill, up the river Avon, which is only two miles and a half from King-road, whereas Chepſtow is eleven miles. The cauſe of this rapid riſe at Chepſtow, is derived from the projection of the rocks at Beachley and Auſt, juſt above the mouth of the Wy, which turn part of the tide with great violence into this river.

The floor of the bridge is level, and of a ſimilar conſtruction to that of Caerleon *. The middle pier, a maſſive pillar of ſtone, ſeparates the counties of Monmouth and Gloceſter; formerly all the other piers were of wood, but to avoid the expence of continual repairs, the county of Monmouth erected piers of ſtone, while thoſe on the Gloceſterſhire ſide ſtill remain in their original ſtate.

The floor of the bridge on the ſide of Gloceſterſhire is ſupported by wooden piers, near 40 feet in height, reſting on platforms of ſtone, which riſe above low water mark. The carpentry of the piers, which are ſo contrived as to preſent only a narrow ſurface to the current of the river, is extremely ingenious, and was probably formed on the Roman model †. By the kindneſs of Mr. Jennings, I am enabled to preſent an engraving, which exhibits the ſtructure of a pier and platform, and the appearance of the bridge at low water.

The Wy being the only navigable river in Herefordſhire and the weſtern part of Monmouthſhire, Chepſtow, which is a creek of Caerdiff, ſupplies the inland diſtricts with the neceſſary imports, and exports the native and wrought commodities. In 1792, the ſhipping belonging to this place amounted to 2,800 tons, and in 1799 was increaſed to 3,500; but upwards of 1,200 veſſels annually enter and clear this port, including their repeated voyages.

The principal exports are timber, of which a thouſand loads per month have been occaſionally ſhipped for the dock yards, large quantities of grain for the Briſtol

* See p. 100. † Ibid.

Briſtol market, and the different manufactures of the country, namely, pig, wrought, and bar iron, wire, tin plates, coal, tar, grind and mill ſtones, paper and cider *, Oak bark likewiſe is a conſiderable article of export, and is uſually ſhipped from hence for Ireland; the average annual quantity cannot be eſtimated at leſs than 6,000 tons; but from peculiar circumſtances in 1799 it exceeded 9,000. In that year the Iriſh agents paid nine guineas per ton on the ſpot, and in ſome places fourteen pounds †.

The imports are ſhop goods, furniture, iron ore from Lancaſhire, linen from Ireland, cloth, wine, beer, and a few other commodities for interior conſumption; alſo from the Baltic, deals, hemp, iron, pitch and tar, and tallow.

In time of peace the foreign trade is not inconſiderable, but at preſent is principally confined to Ireland. Tables of the exports and imports, with an account of the veſſels and tonnage for a ſeries of years, are inſerted in the appendix; theſe ſtatements however do not aſcertain the whole extent of the trade, as many of the veſſels which ſail from the Wy are not regiſtered at Chepſtow.

"There was an alien priory of Benedictine monks at Chepſtow, called in the Norman æra the monaſtery of Strigule ‡; it was founded by one of the proprietors of the caſtle ſoon after the conqueſt, and was a cell to the abbey of Cormeille in Normandy. It was dedicated to St. Mary, and ſeiſed by the crown, but reſtored 1 H. 4. King Edward 4, anno regni 2, granted it to the college called God's Houſe in Cambridge, but that grant ſeems not to have taken effect,

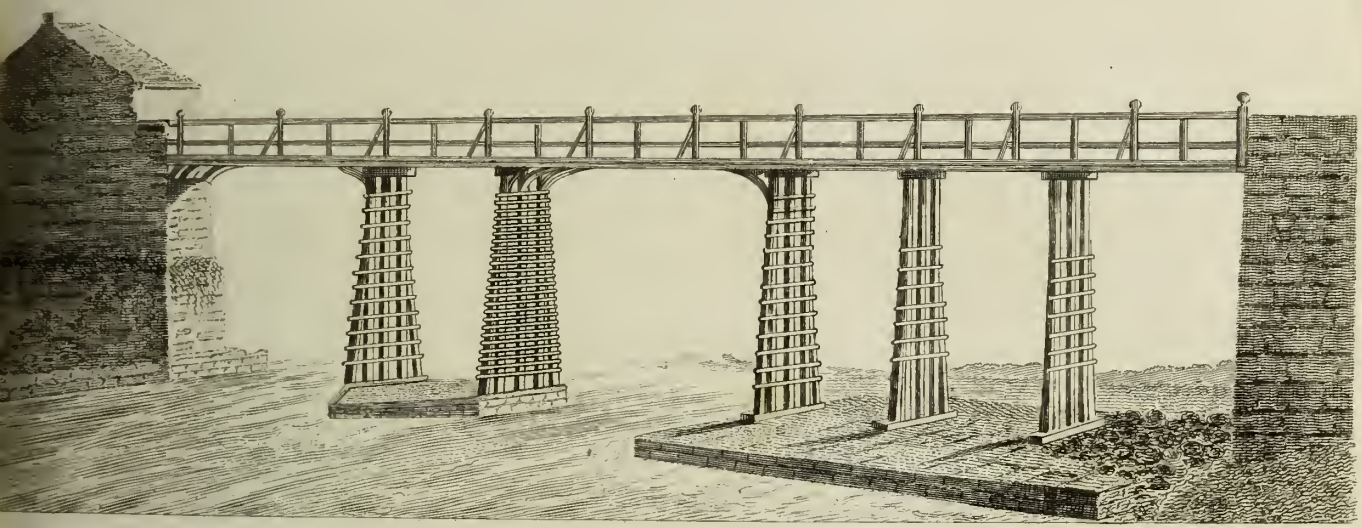
* For this account of the trade, and many other curious particulars relating to Chepſtow, I am principally indebted to my friend Thomas Jennings, eſq. collector of the cuſtoms, to whom I cannot ſufficiently expreſs my obligations for his kind and indefatigable exertions in forwarding my reſearches.

† The price of bark is extremely fluctuating; in ſome years it has been ſold as low as £.3. 10s. per ton, but the average price may be eſtimated at £.7.

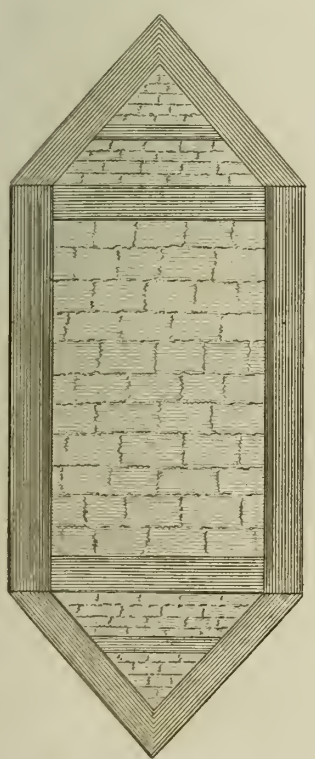
‡ See the next chapter. Tanner juſtly obſerves, "Though there is a place not far from Chepſtow named Strighal, yet the monaſteries of Strigule and Chepſtow ſeem to have been the ſame; for that in the ancient valuations where Strigule is valued, there is no mention of Chepſtow; and in the late valuations where Chepſtow is valued, there is no mention of Strigule. Nor is there any mention of Chepſtow amongſt all the donations to Cormeil; but Striguil with its chapels and appurtenances is thereto given; as Mon. Angl. vol. ii. p. 964. The founder of Tintern abbey is called in Leland's Itin. vol. iv. p. 22. "Dom. de Strogliil, alias Chepſtow." And I am informed that Chepſtow is called Striguile in old writings, and that the manor court is held by that name now."

Notitia Monaſtica, art. Monmouthſhire.

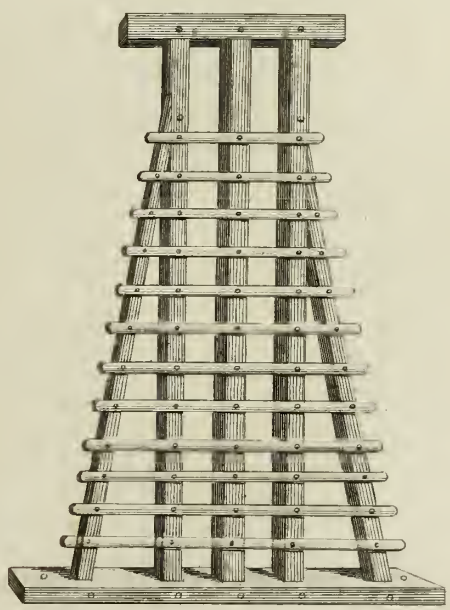
View of Chepstow Bridge on the side of Glocestershire.



A Platform.



A Pier.



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Neele sculp.t 352 Strand.

effect, becauſe there was a priory till the diſſolution, when it had three religious, and was valued at £.32. per annum *." In 1534, Robert Shrewſbury, prior, and Robert Tewkeſbury ſubſcribed to the ſupremacy †.

Scarcely any remains of the ancient priory can be traced, but the preſent pariſh church was part of the chapel, and is a curious remnant of Norman architecture. The body was once the nave of a much larger ſtructure, built in the form of a cathedral, and at the eaſtern extremity appears one of the lofty arches which ſupported the tower. The nave is ſeparated from the ſide aiſles by a grand range of circular arches, repoſing on maſſive piers, which have a venerable and ſolemn appearance. The windows are ornamented gothic, much poſterior to the æra of the original ſtructure.

The entrance to the north is through a gothic porch, which covers the original doorway, formed by a ſemicircular arch enriched with zig zag mouldings, and ſupported by two columns; but the entrance at the weſt front is a magnificent portal in the higheſt ſtate of preſervation; it conſiſts of a ſemicircular arch repoſing on receding columns, and richly decorated with diviſions of diagonal and diamond mouldings, peculiar to the Saxon and early Norman ſtyle ‡. The three windows above, of which the middle is moſt ornamented, are in the ſame ſtyle, and were built at the ſame period. The tower raiſed on this front is the addition of the preſent century, and is ridiculouſly ornamented with Greek pilaſters, which ill accord with the Norman architecture beneath.

The original tower, which ſtood at the eaſtern extremity of the preſent church, fell down about ninety years ago; according to the account of the old clerk, one Evans, a bell-founder, who died in 1770, aged eighty, aſcended to the top a few days before its fall. On the outſide of the church, at the angles of the eaſt end, I noticed ſeveral ancient cluſtered columns, from which the arches of the tower probably ſprung.

The circular arches and zig zag ornaments evidently mark the antiquity of this edifice. The exact æra of the conſtruction is not known, but it was certainly erected

* Tanner.

† Willis's Hiſtory of Abbies, vol. 2, p. 142.

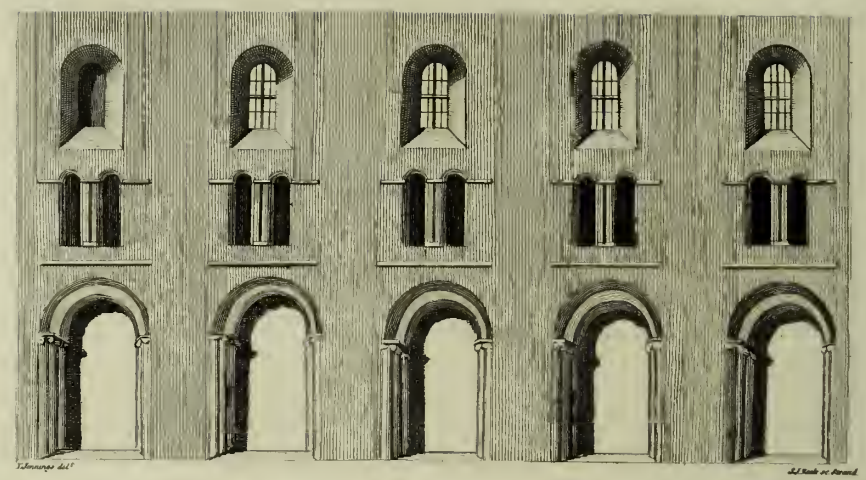
‡ See the annexed engraving. It is remarkable that the capitals of theſe receding columns are ſimilar, which diſtinguiſhes it from the Saxon ſtyle, in which the capitals were generally diſſimilar.

erected ſoon after the conqueſt; for it is mentioned as early as the reign of king Stephen, and in 1168, in a bull of pope Alexander the third, which confirms the church of Striguil and other donations to the abbey of Cormeilles *. An ancient deed alſo ſtates the prior of Striogull to have a right to houſe-boot and hay-boot in Wentwood, *from the conqueſt* †.

On the ſouth ſide of the chancel is a tomb of free ſtone painted and gilt, of which an accurate engraving is given by Sandford ‡; under a canopy ſupported by eight corinthian pillars are placed the whole length figures of Henry, ſecond earl of Worceſter, and lord Herbert of Chepſtow, Raglan, and Gower, and his wife Eliſabeth, who was daughter and coheireſs of ſir Anthony Brown, knight, ſtandard-bearer of England. Of this peer Dugdale ſays, "which Henry, in 12 H. 8. (his father then living) bearing the title of lord Herbert, upon that famous interview betwixt Ardres and Guiſnes, by king Henry and Francis the firſt of France, where all feats of arms were exerciſed for the ſpace of forty days on horſe and foot, was one of the challengers on the part of the Engliſh. And in 15 H. 8 accompanied the duke of Suffolk into France, at which time divers caſtles and ſtrong places were by him won. In which ſervice he merited ſo well, as that he had the honour of knighthood conferred on him by that duke. And in 17 H. 8. (ſhortly after his father's death) was appointed one of the commiſſioners for concluding a peace with the French. In 18 H. 8. he had a ſpecial livery of all the lands, which, either by the death of his father or Eliſabeth (daughter and heir to William earl of Huntington) did by inheritance deſcend to him. In 22 H. 8. he was one of the peers who ſubſcribed that declaration, then ſent to pope Clement the ſeventh, intimating to him, that the loſs of his ſupremacy here would be endangered, in caſe he did not comply with king Henry in that buſineſs of his divorce from queen Katherine. And in 5 E. 6. accompanied the marqueſs of Northampton into France, who being then ſent embaſſador to that king, preſented him with the order of the garter §." He died in 1549, aged fifty-three years.

There are ſeveral remains of religious houſes at Chepſtow and in the vicinity. The priory of St. Kynmercy, St. Kunimerici, or St. Kynemark, occupied a pleaſant

* Dugdale, Mon. vol. 2. p. 963. † Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, appendix, No. 73. ‡ Genealogical Hiſtory. § Dugdale, vol. 2. p. 294.



ELEVATION of the SOUTH SIDE of the NAVE.

Published Jan.ʳʸ 27.th 1802, by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

CHEPSTOW CHURCH.

Published March 1.1800 by Cadell & Davies Strand

ſant eminence to the weſt of the town. It was probably endowed ſoon after the conqueſt; for in 1270 the prior was one of the jury ſummoned to Striogull or Chepſtow, to determine who ought to have houſe-boot and hay-boot in Wentwood *; and is mentioned in the Lincoln taxation in 1291, as poſſeſſing lands and rents to the value of £. 7. 2s. 10d. per annum at Kynemark, Landerſton, Strigoil, and as rector of St. Kynemark, St. Aron, and Porcaſſig †. The remains of the priory are ſtill viſible near the turnpike leading from Chepſtow to Monmouth, not far from Piercefield lodge; they conſiſt of ſtone walls, encloſing the garden and yard of a farm houſe belonging to colonel Wood, ſtill denominated St. Kynemark's farm.

The ruins of the chapel no longer exiſt, and thoſe of another chapel, dedicated to St. Laurence, which ſtood near the priory, at the weſt end of a field called the Upper Dean, can only be traced from the foundations. From this ancient chapel the hamlet ſtill bears the name of St. Laurence, and the fields which belong to the Croſs Green Farm are yet aſſeſſed with the church poor rates; it is annexed to St. Arvans. If the traveller paſſes to theſe ruins along the Shire Newton road, and through the fields at the back of Mrs. Baldwyn's houſe called the Mount, he will enjoy a view of Chepſtow, with the environs, which will be highly gratifying from its ſingularity and beauty.

In the town I obſerved the remains of ſeveral chapels. Near the Beaufort Arms are two ſtone buildings, which are now uſed for a barn and coach houſe; the one has a gothic, and the other a rounded arched doorway; the windows are ancient, and both bear the appearance of having been uſed as chapels. Oppoſite to the Beaufort Arms a ſmall vault, under Fydell's long room, probably the crypt of a chapel, deſerves to be viſited on account of the ſtone roof, which is vaulted and engroined, and ſimilar to the roofs of the ſubterraneous cellars in Chepſtow caſtle. Within the memory of ſome of the inhabitants, part of the wall of the chapel with the eaſt window was ſtanding. In St. Anne's or Bridge ſtreet are likewiſe the remains of two ancient religious edifices. One of theſe, which ſtands near the bridge, was the chapel of St. Anne, and is now uſed

* Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, appendix, p. 119. † Tanner's Notitia Monaſtica, art. Monmouthſhire.

uſed as a bark houſe; the other adjoins to Powis's alms-houſe, and was dedicated to St. Owen, or Ewen.

Chepſtow contains a curious phenomenon in natural hiſtory; in the garden of a houſe in Bridge ſtreet, is a well remarkable for the goodneſs of its water, which at high tide becomes perfectly dry. A ſhort time before high water it begins to ſubſide, and returns ſoon after the ebb; it is not affected by wet or dry weather, but the decreaſe and increaſe regularly correſpond with the flow and ebb of the tide. The well is thirty-two feet deep, and not unfrequently contains fourteen feet of water.

According to tradition the bridge over the Wy was formerly half a mile above the preſent bridge, at a place called Eddis, nearly oppoſite to the alcove in Piercefield grounds, and ſeemingly in a direction leading towards an ancient encampment which encircles the grotto. The remains of the abutments are ſaid to have been viſible within the memory of ſome of the preſent generation; and veſtiges of a pitched road were recently found in digging near the ſpot. I walked to the place, but could not diſcern the ſmalleſt traces of the ancient bridge, and the ground in which the pitched road was diſcovered was planted with potatoes. I was, however, amply gratified for my diſappointment by the pleaſantneſs of the walk which leads by the ſide of the river, the beauty of the hanging woods of Piercefield, and the pictureſque appearance of the caſtle.

Although there are no manufactures in Chepſtow, yet ſeveral are eſtabliſhed in the neighbouring vallies of Itton and Mounton, which afford means of ſubſiſtence to many of the inhabitants. Theſe vallies deſerve likewiſe to be viſited for their pictureſque beauty; they are watered by a lively ſtream, which is ſupplied from the ſprings that riſe in Wentwood, and turns one fulling mill, four corn mills, and ſix paper mills. The brook ſuddenly diſappears in the fields, and after a ſubterraneous paſſage of a mile, burſts forth at the foot of a hill near the Long Orchard, where it is diſtinguiſhed by the name of the Well Head. This ſtream, after flowing by the farm houſe and ſequeſtered church of Mounton, croſſes the high road between Chepſtow and the New Paſſage, and falls into the Severn at the Pill of St. Pierre.

Sr Rich.d Hoare Del.t

J. Carter Sculp.t

WESTERN ENTRANCE of CHEPSTOW CHURCH

CHAPTER 38.

Caſtle of Chepſtow or Striguil.—Deſcription.—Hiſtory and Proprietors.

THE town of Chepſtow was once fortified, and the walls *, ſtrengthened with round towers or baſtions at regular intervals, ſtretch from the bank of the river below the bridge to the works of the caſtle, at one period the largeſt and moſt important fortreſs in theſe parts.

Some fanciful antiquaries have attributed the conſtruction of the caſtle to Julius Cæſar, without conſidering that he was never in theſe parts, and there is no other evidence in ſupport of this opinion, but a few Roman bricks which are viſible in the walls of the chapel. It is however not improbable that the Romans, who afterwards had ſeveral ſtations in the vicinity, did not neglect a ſite which commanded the navigation of the Wy, afforded the only paſſage of the river for ſeveral miles, and formed a natural communication with their ſtations in the country of the Silures.

After repeated enquiries, I could not learn that any Roman antiquities had ever been diſcovered at Chepſtow, or in the vicinity; the neighbourhood indeed abounds with numerous ancient encampments, ſome of which may have been originally occupied by the Romans, and altered by ſucceeding nations †.

The

* "The towne of Chepſtow," ſays Leland, "hath been very ſtrongly walled, as yet welle doth appere. The walles began at the great bridge over the Wy, and ſo cam to the caſtel, the which yet ſtandeth fayr and ſtrong, not far from the ruin of the bridge. A great lykelyhood ys, that when Carguent began to decay, then began Chepſtow to flouriſh. For yt ſtandeth far better, as upon Wy there ebbing and flowing by the Rage coming out of Severn. So that to Chepſtow may cum greate ſheppes." Itin. vol. v. fol. 5.

† Theſe encampments are; two overhanging the Wy in Piercefield grounds; one near Hardwick, on the precipitous cliff of the Wy; one on the eminence called

The poſition of Chepſtow was too advantageous to eſcape the notice of the Saxons *; and the name, which was probably derived from Cheapian ſtowe, ſignifying a place of traffic, ſeems to imply that they had formed a ſettlement at this port; it was probably occupied by Harold †, when he built a palace at Portſcwit, and over-ran this part of Monmouthſhire.

The caſtle ſeems to have borne different appellations; it is ſaid to have been called by the Britons Caſtell Gwent or Caſgwent ‡, by the Saxons Cheapſtowe, and by the Normans was principally diſtinguiſhed by the appellations of Eſtrighoiel, or Striguil; it is however uncertain whether this denomination is anterior to Chepſtow; but from a very early period the names of Chepſtow and Striguil appear to have been ſynonimous. A general opinion, as I have already obſerved §, prevails, that the name of Striguil was derived from the caſtellated manſion on the borders of Wentwood, which was built by Richard de Clare earl of Pembroke, and is ſtill called the caſtle of Striguil. From this place, it is ſaid, he aſſumed the title of earl of Striguil, and transferred it to Chepſtow, of which he was alſo the proprietor. But this aſſertion is wholly unfounded; for the caſtle of Chepſtow is diſtinguiſhed in Domeſday Book by the appellation of Caſtellum de Eſtrighoiel ||, and is ſtyled in ancient deeds and charters Striogul, Strigoil, Striguil, Strigul or Strighil, and in Latin Strigulia.

It

called the Gaer hill, above Piercefield; and one at Portcaſſeg, above Tintern.

Plans of theſe different encampments are engraved from ſurveys by Mr. Morrice.

* Near Chepſtow in Gloceſterſhire is a dike or rampart of earth, ſtretching, as I am informed by Mr. Jennings, from the Severn a mile and a half above Beachley ferry, towards the Wy, and interſected by the preſent high road leading from Chepſtow to Beachley, erroneouſly ſuppoſed by ſome perſons to be part of Offa's dike, but is nothing more than the remains of an entrenchment thrown up to fortify the peninſula of Beachley during the civil wars of the laſt century. See Ruſhworth, vol. 5. paſſim.

† Leland Syllab. Dict. Antiq. vol. ix. p. 37. "Conjectura eſt urbem captam, direptam, incenſam, "denique fuiſſe; quo tempore Heraldus."

‡ Leland, ibid. Camden. Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, p. 52.

§ p. 36.

|| "Caſtellum de Eſtrighoiel fecit Wilhelmus Comes "et ejus tempore reddebat xl ſolidos tantum de "navibus in ſilva euntibus. Et medietatem habebat "Rad: de Limeſi; modo habet rex inde xii. lib. "Tempore vero Rogerii Comitis filii ejus reddit "ipſa villa, xvi. lib."

Domeſday Book, art. Gloceſterſhire.

It

It is alſo far more probable that the caſtellated manſion ſhould be called Striguil, becauſe it was built and inhabited by the earls of Striguil or Chepſtow, than that this large, ancient, and important fortreſs ſhould derive its appellation from that inſignificant edifice.

The caſtle is ſituated on the brow of a precipice, overhanging the right bank of the Wy; the northern ſide is advanced cloſe to the edge, and conſtructed in ſuch a manner as to appear a part of the cliff; the ſame ivy which overſpreads the walls, twines and cluſters round the huge fragments, and down the perpendicular ſide of the rock. The remaining parts of the caſtle were defended by a moat, and conſiſt of maſſive walls, flanked with lofty towers.

The area occupies a large tract of ground, and is divided into four courts. The grand entrance to the eaſt is a circular arch between two round towers, formerly ſtrengthened by a portcullis, and exhibits a venerable ſpecimen of Norman architecture; it leads into the firſt court, which contains the ſhells of the grand hall, kitchens, and numerous apartments of conſiderable ſize, ſtill retaining veſtiges of baronial ſplendor*. A few of theſe rooms, which are leſs dilapidated than the reſt, are tenanted by the family to whom the caſtle was leaſed.

At

It is plain, from the mention of ſhips and of a town, that the place here alluded to, could not be the caſtellated manſion on the borders of Wentwood, which is ſeated at a conſiderable diſtance from any navigable river. Atkyns, in his hiſtory of Gloceſterſhire, p. 45, ſuppoſes this Caſtellum de Eſtrighoiel to be the caſtle of Eaſt bridge hotel in Gloceſter, and Rudder, p. 89, miſcalls it Esbrighoiel, and conſiders it as the caſtle of Gloceſter. The illuſtrator of Domeſday Book, miſled by theſe authorities, makes Estrighoiel and Esbrighoiel two places, calls them Chepſtow and Gloceſter, and interprets Strigul or Strigoil likewiſe to mean Gloceſter.

It is evident, however, from the early hiſtorians, as well as from ancient deeds and charters, that Striguil and Chepſtow ſignify the ſame place, which Tanner has ſufficiently proved in the note quoted in the laſt chapter. See alſo Dugdale's Baronage paſſim, Leland, vol. vi. fol. 22. vol. ix. p. 36.

An old deed quoted in the Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire, appendix, p. 119, calls Roger Bigod duke of Norfolk, lord of Chepſtow, alias Strugle, in right of his wife.

Giraldus frequently mentions "Strigulienſe Caſtrum," and "Ricardus Strongbow, Comes Strigulię," which his tranſlators, Hollingſhed and Hooker, interpret Chepſtow, and earl of Chepſtow.

Conqueſt of Ireland, chap. 2.

* A few tiles, ornamented with birds and flowers, with which the halls and galleries were paved, have been preſerved by affixing them to the walls of the firſt court. Not leſs than twenty-four ancient chimnies ſtill remain; the principal one of the inhabited part is handſomely decorated on the outſide, and the inſide is glazed, which prevents the accumulation of the ſoot, and it was never ſwept during the memory of Mrs. Williams, which muſt have been near eighty years.

At the ſouth eaſtern angle of this court is a round tower, now called Harry Marten's Tower *, which was the keep or citadel; the inſide front, which has a gothic entrance with hanging arches, and ſquare windows, is poſterior to the original ſtructure; the outſide is maſſive, appears in its ancient ſtate, and bears ſtriking marks of its Norman origin.

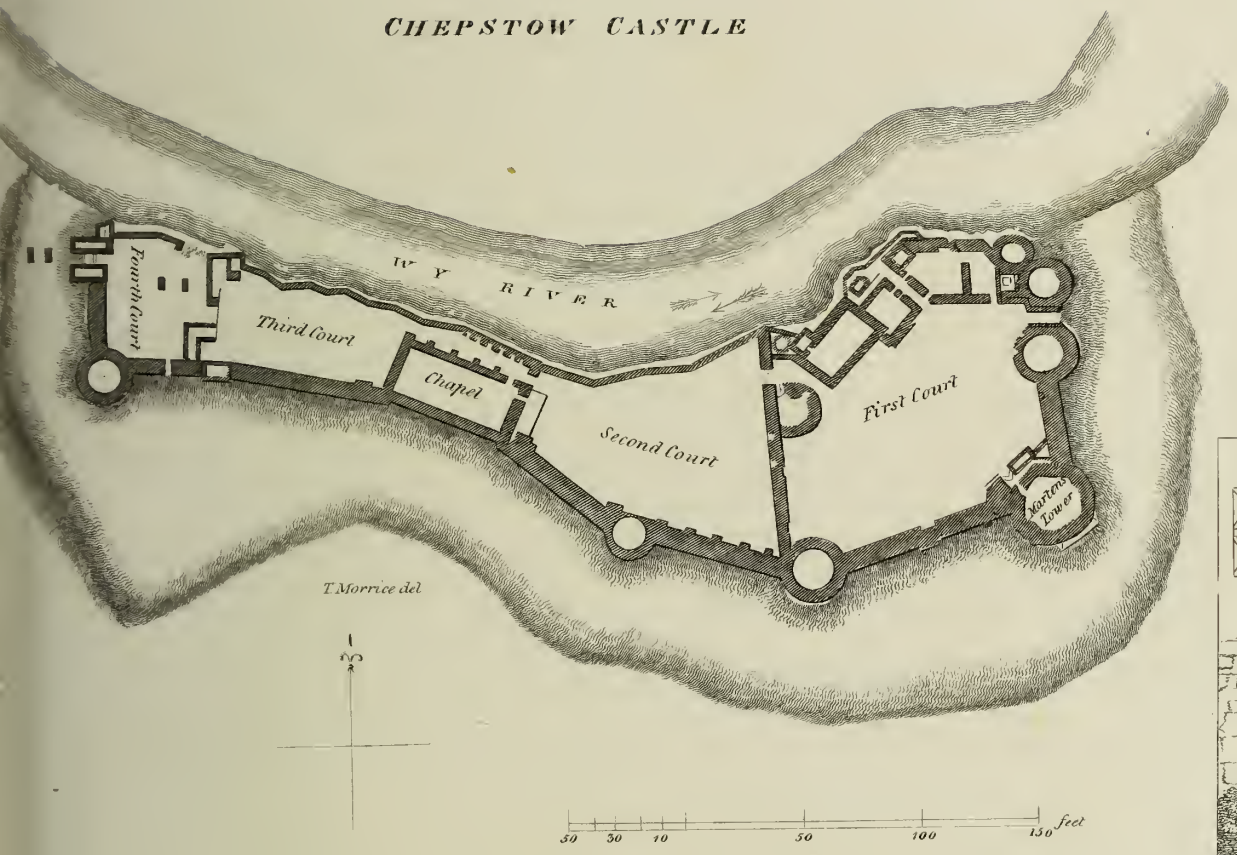
On the weſtern ſide of this court, near a round tower called the old kitchen, a gate opens into the ſecond court, now a garden, at the extremity of which another gateway leads into the third court, and to a neat and elegant building uſually called the chapel. The walls of this edifice are partly formed with hewn ſtone and partly with rubble, which is covered with a hard cement of pebbles and mortar. Some Roman bricks interſperſed in the weſtern and ſouthern ſides, have induced antiquaries to ſuppoſe it of Roman workmanſhip, and to diſtinguiſh it by the name of the Roman wall; but theſe bricks are too few in number to ſupport this opinion, and the whole building appears to conſiſt of heterogeneous materials, collected from the remains of dilapidated ſtructures.

The inſide is a grand area ninety feet in length, and thirty in breadth; the roof is fallen, and the remaining walls are not leſs than forty feet high. It is uſually ſuppoſed to have formed one magnificent room; but a range of apertures for beams in the ſide walls, about thirteen feet from the ground, ſeem to prove that it was divided into an upper and lower apartment, unleſs they were intended to ſupport a gallery.

At the height of eighteen feet appears a row of rounded arches, each nearly ten feet high and eight broad, ſuppoſed to have been niches, containing either ſtatues of the twelve apoſtles, or ſeats for the twelve knights of Glamorgan, when they paid their firſt homage to Robert Fitzhamon, for the lands which they conquered under his banners. The number of theſe ſuppoſed niches however does not juſtify this conjecture; for I counted no leſs than fifteen, and they appear to have been nothing more than arches, formed for the purpoſe of lightening the walls, which were unprovided with buttreſſes †. All theſe except two

* See the next chapter. † One of theſe which is ſtill open gradually narrows, and probably ended in a chink or oeillet.

CHEPSTOW CASTLE



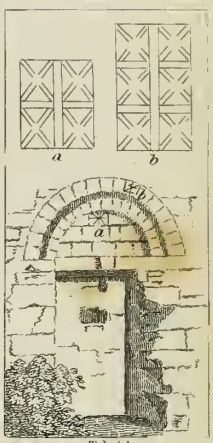
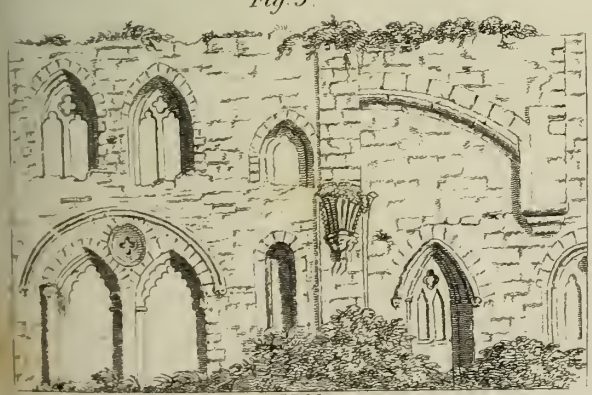


Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.



North Wall of the Chapel

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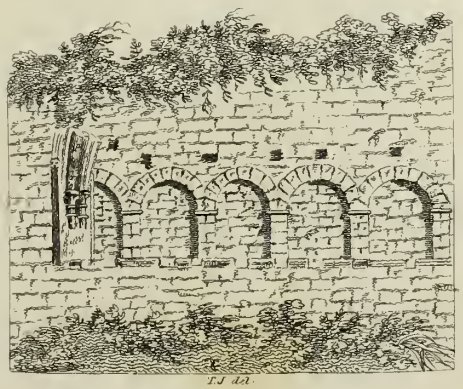
Fig. 2.



South Wall

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two are filled up, and appear to have been ſtuccoed; two of them are almoſt covered with part of the gothic arch that ſupported the roof.

The preſent entrance at the north probably led to a vaulted chamber beneath, but the grand entrance was by a flight of ſteps, ſtill viſible on the outſide of the eaſtern wall, through a ſemi-circular arched doorway *, now cloſed, in the upper part of which appear a Roman brick and two ſtones, ornamented with Saxon mouldings, plainly taken from the remains of more ancient ſtructures. Within this entrance, a ſtaircaſe in the wall aſcends to a door, on a level with the range of arches which opened into the upper chamber or gallery, and from thence to the battlements.

The original character of this building is Saxon or Norman, yet the decorations are gothic; the windows are moſtly in the ornamented ſtyle of that ſpecies of architecture, and the remains of an elegant arch, enriched with foliage and trigliphs, which ſupported the roof, ſpring from the walls †. Theſe veſtiges of gothic ſplendor, prove conſiderable alterations in the building poſterior to its original conſtruction.

At the ſouth-weſtern angle of the third court is a ſtaircaſe aſcending to the battlements and towers; this court is likewiſe a garden, and formerly communicated by a draw-bridge with the fourth or laſt court, which now can only be entered by creeping through a ſally port in the ſouth wall. The weſtern entrance of the caſtle was ſtrengthened with three portculliſes and a draw-bridge, leading into a field ſtill called the Caſtle Ditch, which is encloſed by the wall of the town; and beyond is another meadow, denominated the Caſtle Garden.

From a general view of theſe remains, the grand character of the caſtle appears to be Norman; the ſhell was conſtructed on one plan, and at the ſame æra; but alterations and additions were made by the different proprietors. The range of buildings on the northern ſide of the firſt court, are wholly conſtructed in the ornamented gothic ſtyle of architecture, and are evidently more modern than the reſt of the caſtle.

Soon

* See fig. 1, in the plan of Chepſtow caſtle. † See ſketch of part of the north and ſouth wall, on the ſame plate, fig. 2. and 3.

Soon after the conqueſt this part of Monmouthſhire, then included in the county of Gloceſter, came into the poſſeſſion of the Normans; and it appears from Domeſday Book, that Wilhelmus Comes, who is called by Dugdale and Camden, William Fitz Oſborn, earl of Hereford, built the caſtle of Eſtrighoiel* or Chepſtow. He was lord of Breteuil in Normandy, nearly related to the conqueror, and a principal adviſer of the invaſion, in which he held high command, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the battle of Haſtings. For theſe ſervices he was rewarded with ample poſſeſſions, and created juſticiary for the north of England, and joint marſhal with Roger de Montgomery. He was killed in 1070, in an expedition againſt Robert the Friſon.

He left three ſons; the eldeſt, William, inherited his eſtates in Normandy; the ſecond, Ralph, was a monk; and the third, Roger de Britolio, ſucceeded to the earldom of Hereford, and obtained this caſtle amongſt his other poſſeſſions in England. But ſoon afterwards, having rebelled againſt the king, he was defeated, deprived of his eſtates, and condemned to perpetual impriſonment.

The following anecdote, relating to his conduct in confinement, is given by Dugdale: "Though he frequently uſed many ſcornful and contumelious expreſſions towards the king, yet he was pleaſed at the celebration of the feaſt of Eaſter in a ſolemn manner, (as was then uſual) to ſend to this earl Roger, at that time in priſon, his royal robes, who ſo diſdained the favour, that he forthwith cauſed a great fire to be made, and the mantle, the inner ſurcoat of ſilk, and the upper garment, lined with precious furs, to be ſuddenly burnt. Which being made known to the king, he became not a little diſpleaſed, and ſaid, "*Certainly he is a very proud man who hath thus abuſed me; but, by the brightneſs of God, he ſhall never come out of priſon ſo long as I live.* Which expreſſion was fulfilled to the utmoſt, for he never was releaſed during that king's life, nor after, but died in priſon."

His eſtates being forfeited, the caſtle was transferred to the great family of Clare †, for in the reign of Henry the firſt, we find it in the poſſeſſion of Gilbert, ſurnamed

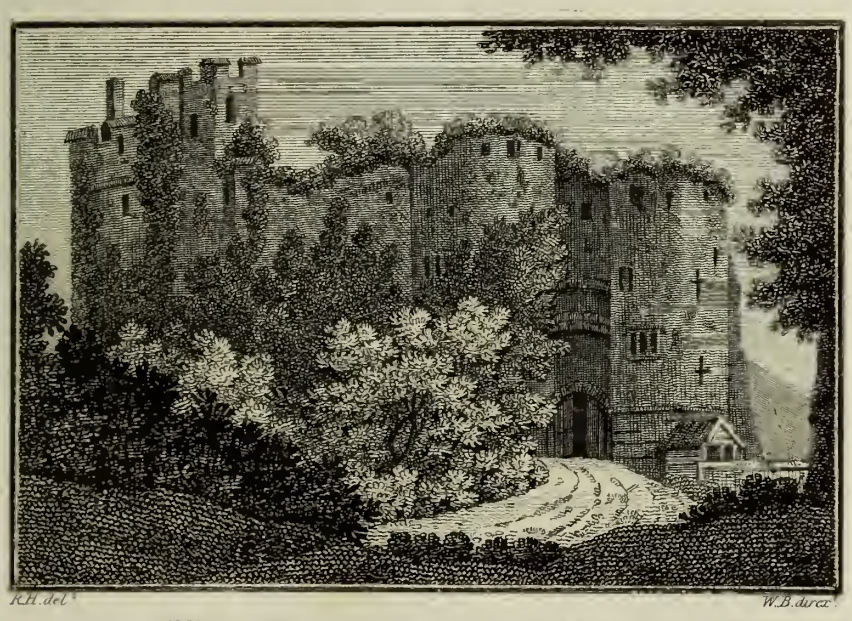
* Domeſday Book. See note to p. 366.

† They bore this name from an ancient town in Suffolk, granted by the conqueror to their anceſtor Richard de Tonnebruge.

The account of the early proprietors of this caſtle, and the pedigree of the Clare family, is extremely obſcure. Dugdale has preſerved in his Monaſticon two ancient deeds concerning the genealogy of the Clares, founders

R.H. del.t W.B. dirext.

WEST VIEW OF CHEPSTOW CASTLE.



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ENTRANCE TO CHEPSTOW CASTLE.

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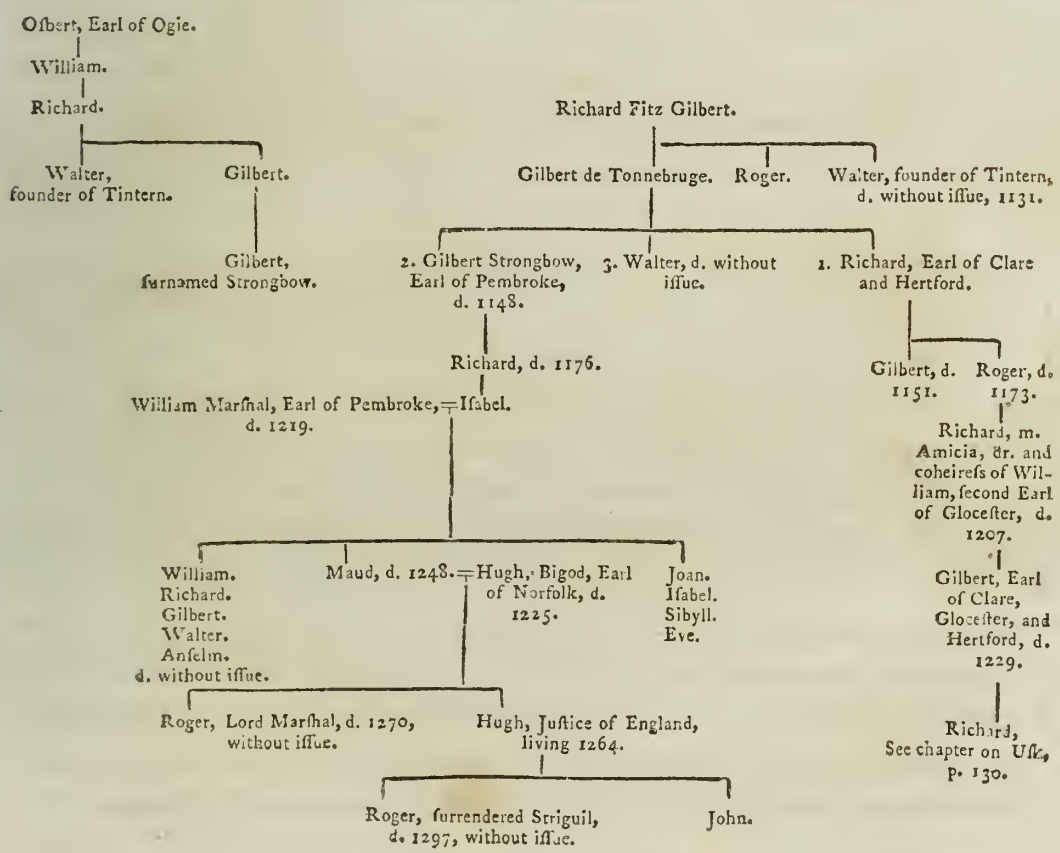
ſurnamed Strongbow, brother of Richard earl of Clare, who, according to Dugdale, poſſeſſed Netherwent with the whole dominion of Striguil. At the coronation of Henry the ſecond he executed the office of marſhal of England, was created earl of Pembroke, and as proprietor of this caſtle, is often ſtyled earl of Striguil.

Gilbert

founders of Tintern abbey, which are contrary to each other: according to one, William Fitz Oſborn was himſelf their great anceſtor; but, according to the other, Richard Fitz Gilbert. In his Baronage, art. Clare, he has followed the latter pedigree; he ſeems alſo to have confounded Walter, the founder of Tintern abbey, with his nephew. Dugdale, Monaſticon, vol. 1. p. 724. Baronage, art. Clare, and earls of Hereford. According to Leland, likewiſe, William Fitz Oſbert was the anceſtor of the Clares; but Gilbert Strongbow was the ſon of Walter. Itin. vol. vi. fol. 23.

PEDIGREE OF THE CLARE FAMILY.



Gilbert dying in 1148, was ſucceeded in his earldom of Pembroke and office of marſhal of England by his ſon Richard de Clare, alſo ſurnamed Strongbow, and ſtyled earl of Striguil.

Ireland was then under the dominion of five ſovereigns, of whom Dermot Macnagh, king of Leinſter, and Roderic, ſurnamed the great, king of Connaught, were the moſt conſiderable. Diſputes ariſing between theſe two kings, Dermot was dethroned, and implored the protection of Henry the ſecond, who was then in Aquitain engaged in a war with France. Henry, though anxious to interfere in the affairs of Ireland, could not afford immediate ſuccour to the fugitive king, but permitted him to apply to the Engliſh barons. Dermot among others gained Richard Strongbow, by promiſing him his daughter in marriage, with the ſucceſſion to the crown of Leinſter. In 1171, Richard landed at Waterford with 1,200 men, eſpouſed the princeſs, and, his father-in-law dying, conquered and took poſſeſſion of Leinſter, with Dublin the capital.

This brilliant ſucceſs gave umbrage to Henry the ſecond; he ſeiſed the earl's property in Normandy, England, and Wales, and levying a conſiderable army, paſſed over to Ireland with a reſolution to annex Leinſter to the crown of England; but was appeaſed by the ceſſion of Waterford and Dublin, and all the caſtles received from Dermot. Accordingly the earl was reſtored to his eſtates, permitted to enjoy his wife's inheritance, and conſtituted conſtable of Ireland.

Giraldus Cambrenſis thus delineates the character of Richard Strongbow: "This earle was ſomewhat ruddie and of ſanguine complexion and freckle face, "his eyes greie, his face feminine, his voice ſmall, and his necke little, but ſome-"what of a high ſtature: he was verie liberall, courteous, and gentle; what he "could not compaſſe or bring to paſſe in deed, he would win by good words "and gentle ſpeeches. In time of peace he was more readie to yeeld and obeie "than to rule and beare ſwaie. Out of the campe he was more like to a ſouldier "companion than a captaine or ruler; but in the campe and in the warres he "carried with him the ſtate and countenance of a valiant captaine. Of himſelfe "he would not adventure anie thing; but being adviſed and ſet on, he refuſed "no attempts; for of himſelfe he would not raſhlie adventure or preſumptuouſlie

Sir Rich.d Hoare Bar.t del.t

W. Byrne. Sculp.t

SOUTH VIEW OF CHEPSTOW CASTLE.

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" take anie thing in hand. In the fight and battell he was a moſt aſſured token " and ſigne to the whole companie, either to ſtand valiantlie to the fight, or for " policie to retire. In all chances of warre he was ſtill one and the ſame manner of " man, being neither diſmaied with adverſitie nor puffed up with proſperitie *."

Richard Strongbow dying in 1176, without iſſue male, Iſabella his daughter and heireſs, conveyed the caſtle town and manor of Striguil, with all his other poſſeſſions, to her huſband, William, marſhal of England, who became lord protector of the kingdom on the acceſſion of Henry the third: in right of his wife he was created earl of Pembroke and Eſtrigol †; and according to Dugdale, " paid £.65. 10s. for ſeventy-five knights' fees and a half, belonging to the honour of Strigul ‡."

This illuſtrious peer was the greateſt warrior in a period of warfare, and the moſt loyal ſubject in an age of rebellion: by the united influence of wiſdom and valour, he ſupported the tottering crown of king John, broke the confederacy of the barons, who had ſworn allegiance to Lewis dauphin of France, drove away the foreign uſurper, fixed Henry the third on the throne of his anceſtors, and gave peace to his diſtracted country. He died in 1219, and was buried in the new temple, with this epitaph on his monument:

" Sum qui Saturnum ſibi ſenſit Hibernia, ſolem
" Anglia; Mercurium Normania; Gallia Martem."

" For he had been," as Matthew Paris obſerves, " a ſevere tamer of the Iriſh, a great " favourer of the Engliſh, atchieved much in Normandy, and was an invincible " ſoldier in France §." On the demiſe of his five ſons, William, Richard, Gilbert, Walter, and Anſelm, without iſſue, his vaſt inheritance was divided among his five daughters, and Hugh Bigod earl of Norfolk, in virtue of his marriage with Maud, the eldeſt, received the caſtle and borough of Strugoil. He died in 1225, and after frequent ſolicitation his widow obtained the office and honour of marſhal, in virtue of her deſcent: Henry the third, himſelf, " ſolemnly gave the marſhal's rod into her hands, which ſhe thereupon delivered unto earl Roger, her ſon

* The Conqueſt of Ireland, tranſlated by Hollingſhed, chap. 28.

† Maddox's Hiſtory of the Exchequer, p. 20.

‡ Baronage, vol. 1. p. 601.

§ Ibid. p. 602.

ſon and heir, whoſe homage the king received for the ſame." "Maud afterwards married John de Warren earl of Surrey, and departing this life in 1248, was buried in the abbey of Tinterne, her four ſons, Roger, Hugh, Ralph, and John, carrying her body into the choir*."

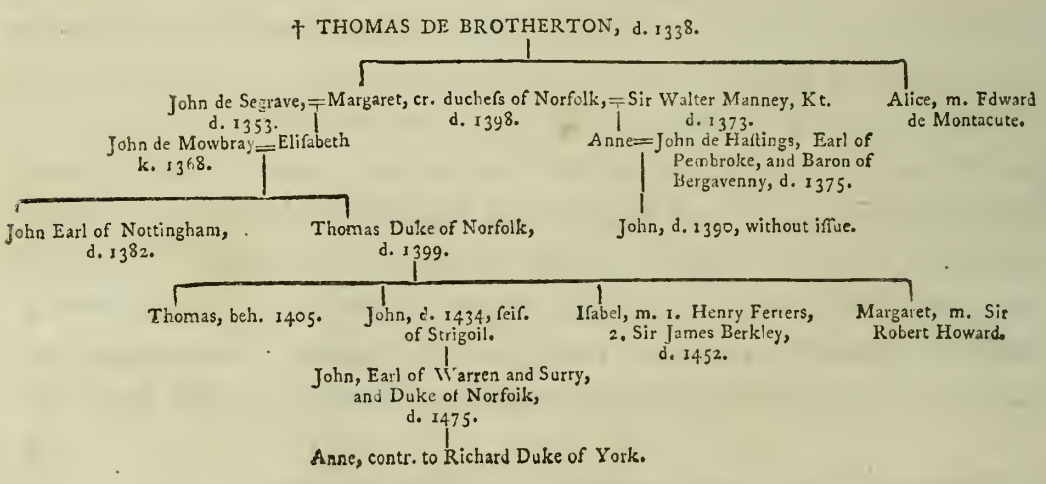
Her grandſon Roger, diſſatisfied with his brother John, ſurrendered all his eſtates and honours to king Edward the firſt, who re-granted them to him and to his iſſue by Alice his wife.

On his death without iſſue, Edward the ſecond, in virtue of the ſurrender, granted to his brother Thomas Plantagenet, called de Brotherton †, the earldom of Norfolk, and all the eſtates poſſeſſed by the Bigods, among which were the caſtle and town of Chepſtow. By his firſt wife Alice, daughter of ſir Roger Hales of Harwich, knight, he left two daughters and coheirs, Margaret, firſt married to John lord Segrave, and ſecondly to ſir Walter Manney, knight of the garter, and Alice, to ſir Edward de Montacute.

The caſtle and manor of Striguil, with the town of Chepſtow, were aſſigned to his widow, Mary, daughter of William lord Rous, as part of her dowry, and on her death in 1362, were given in purparty to Margaret, then wife of ſir Walter Manney, who was afterwards created ducheſs of Norfolk.

Margaret

* Dugdale, vol. 1. p. 134.



Margaret had two daughters, Eliſabeth, by lord Segrave, who eſpouſed John de Mowbray, and Anne, by ſir Walter Manney, wife of ſir John de Haſtings, earl of Pembroke and baron of Abergavenny, who obtained the caſtle of Strigul, with the town of Chepſtow. They afterwards, either on his deceaſe, or on the death of his ſon John, reverted to Margaret, and came into the poſſeſſion of her grandſon, Thomas ſon of John de Mowbray. He was created, in right of his grandmother, earl marſhal of England, duke of Norfolk, and after receiving great honours and lucrative employments from Richard the ſecond, forfeited the favour of his capricious ſovereign, was baniſhed, and died in exile in 1399.

His eldeſt ſon Thomas was beheaded in 1405, and his ſecond ſon John, created in his father's life time earl of Warren and Surrey, became alſo duke of Norfolk, and earl marſhal of England; he died in 1434, "ſeiſed of the caſtle manor and borough of Strogoil, which were aſſigned to his wife Catherine, daughter of Ralph Neville earl of Weſtmoreland, as part of her dowry."

His ſon John ſucceeded to his honours and eſtates, and appears to have ſold the caſtle manor and lordſhip of Chepſtow to William Herbert * earl of Pembroke, who poſſeſſed them at the time of his death †. They devolved on his ſon William, afterwards created earl of Huntingdon, and were conveyed by his daughter and heireſs Eliſabeth, to her huſband ſir Charles Somerſet, who was immediately ſummoned to parliament, jure uxoris, by the title of lord Herbert of Raglan, Chepſtow, and Gower, and afterwards raiſed to the earldom of Worceſter ‡.

This fortreſs was conſidered as very important to both parties, during the civil wars

* "To Chepſtowe yet, my pen agayne muſt paſſe,
" Where Strongbow once (an earle of rare renowne)
" A long time ſince, the lord and maiſter was
" (In princely ſort) of caſtle and of towne.
" Then after that, to Mowbray it befell,
" Of Norfolke duke, a worthie knowne full well;
" Who ſold the ſame to William Harbert knight,
" That was the earle of Pembrooke then by right."
Churchyard's Worthines of Wales, p. 7.

† As appears from the inquiſition taken after his death. See Dugdale's Baronage, vol 2, p. 257.

‡ See Dugdale's Baronage, art. Clare, Mareſchal, Bigod, Brotherton, Segrave, Manney, Haſtings, Moubray, Herbert, and Somerſet. Edmonſon's Account of the Marſhals of England, Heraldry, vol. 1. Rapin.

wars of the laſt century; for the poſſeſſion of it gave authority to the king or parliament in theſe parts.

At firſt Chepſtow was garriſoned for the king, till in 1645, colonel Morgan, governor of Gloceſter, at the head of 300 horſe and 400 foot, and aſſiſted by the mountaineers, with little difficulty made himſelf maſter of the town, and in a few days compelled the governor, colonel Fitzmorris, to ſurrender the caſtle. But the caſtle was afterwards ſurpriſed by the loyaliſts, under Sir Nicholas Kemeys, who in the abſence of the governor, by means of a ſecret correſpondence, obtained poſſeſſion of the weſtern gate, and made the garriſon priſoners of war. On this event Cromwell marched againſt it in perſon, took poſſeſſion of the town, but aſſaulted the caſtle without ſucceſs, though garriſoned only by 160 men. He then left colonel Ewer, with a train of artillery, ſeven companies of foot, and four troops of horſe, to proſecute the ſiege. But the garriſon defended themſelves valiantly, until their proviſions were exhauſted, and even then refuſed to ſurrender under promiſe of quarter, hoping to eſcape by means of a boat, which they had provided for that purpoſe. A ſoldier of the parliamentary army, however, ſwam acroſs the river, with a knife between his teeth, cut the cable of the boat, and brought it away; the caſtle was at length forced, and Sir Nicholas Kemeys with 40 men ſlain in the aſſault. This event was conſidered by the parliament ſo important, that the captain who brought the news was rewarded with fifty pounds, and a letter of thanks ſent to colonel Ewer and the officers and ſoldiers engaged in that ſervice*.

In 1645, the caſtle and park of Chepſtow, together with the chaſe of Wentwood, and ſeveral eſtates which belonged to the marquis of Worceſter and other loyaliſts, to the amount of £.2,500 a year, were confiſcated, and ſettled by parliament on Oliver Cromwell.

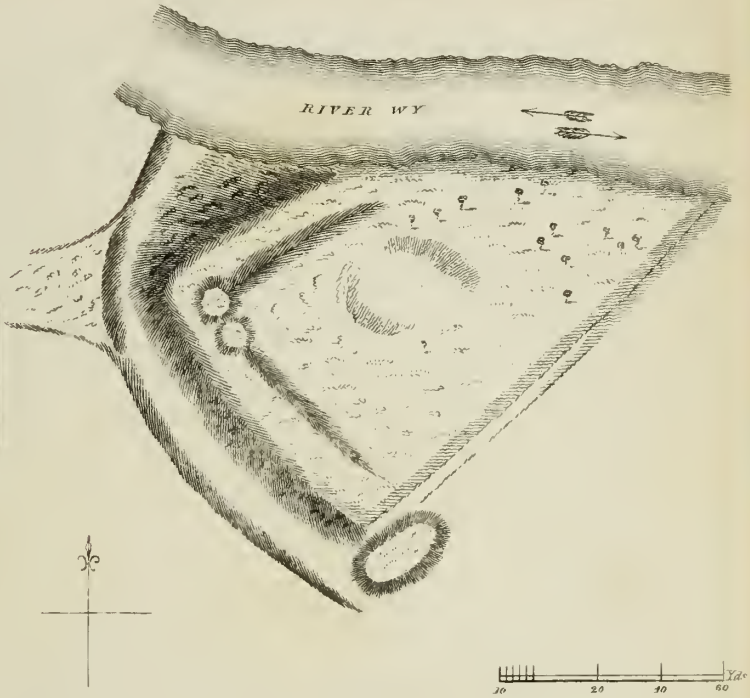
On the acceſſion of Charles the ſecond, the caſtle of Chepſtow was reſtored to the marquis of Worceſter, and has ſince continued in the poſſeſſion of his deſcendants.

The caſtle and ſite belong to the duke of Beaufort, but were held on a leaſe

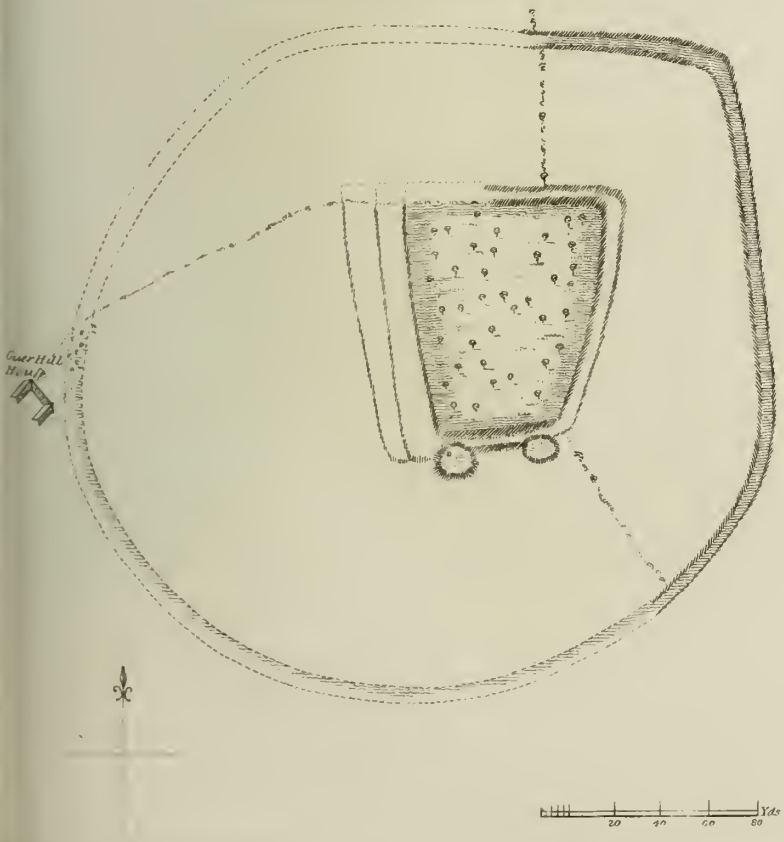
* Ruſhworth.

Encampment in Piercefield Ground

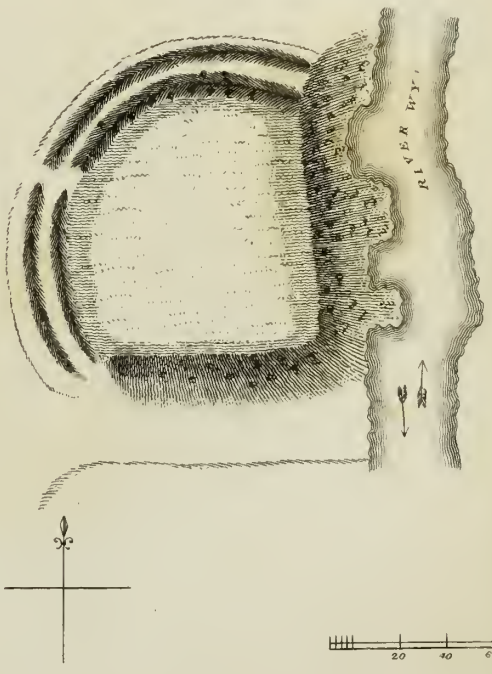
Encampment in Pierrewood near Piercefield



Gaer Hill Encampment near Piercefield



Encampment at Hardwick near Chepstow



Pubd July 20 1801 by Cadell & Davies Strand

Harding sc

leaſe of lives which expired in 1799, on the death of Mrs. Williams, the late occupier, though by the kindneſs of the duke of Beaufort, her huſband ſtill retains poſſeſſion of the caſtle.

This lady, who was alive in my firſt expedition, and furniſhed me with much information, was eighty-five years of age. Her family by the female line afforded rare inſtances of longevity; her mother, Mrs. Hutton, lived to the age of 101, her grandmother reached 103, and her great grandmother, Mrs. Charles, who died aged 106, performed the office of midwife to lady Gage, when ſhe had paſſed her hundredth year.

CHAPTER 39.

Harry Marten's Tower.—Apartment in which he was confined.—Anecdotes of his Life.

THE tower at the ſouth-eaſtern extremity of the caſtle is remarkable as the place where Henry, uſually called Harry, Marten, one of the regicides, was confined.

Having previouſly peruſed a doleful deſcription * of the dungeon, in which he was immured, and which ſcarcely admitted a ſingle ray of light to alleviate the horrors of his ſolitary impriſonment, I was ſurpriſed to find a comfortable ſuite of rooms. The firſt ſtory contains an apartment which was occupied by himſelf and his wife, and above were lodgings for his domeſtics. The chamber in which he uſually lived is not leſs than thirty-ſix feet in length, twenty-three in breadth, and of proportionate height; it was provided with two fire-places, and three windows, two of which appear to be the original apertures, and the third was probably enlarged for his convenience.

Henry Marten was ſon of Sir Henry Marten †, doctor of civil laws, a judge of

* "Inſcription for the apartment in Chepſtow caſtle, where Henry Marten the regicide, was impriſoned for thirty years."

"For *thirty* years *ſecluded* from mankind,
"Here Marten *linger'd*. Often have theſe walls
"Echoed his footſteps, as with even tread
"He pac'd around his *priſon*. Not to him
"Did nature's fair varieties exiſt
"He *never* ſaw the ſun's delightful beams;
"*Save when thro' yon high bars he pour'd a ſad*
"*And broken ſplendour* ——." Southey's Poems.

† See an account of him, with his portrait, in the Britiſh Cabinet, publiſhed by E. Harding.

His father Sir Henry Marten died on the 26th of September 1641, and was buried at Longworth church in Berkſhire, the place of his reſidence, where a ſepulchral ſtone was erected to his memory by his daughter-in-law Mrs. Margaret Marten. His mother Eliſabeth died in 1618, aged 44, and was buried in the ſame church, leaving two ſons, Henry and George, and three daughters, Eliſabeth, Jane, and Maria. Henry Marten her ſon, wrote her epitaph in Latin, and added an indifferent elegy in Engliſh verſe, which he compoſed at ſixteen. Aſhmole's Berkſhire.

"Stay, paſſenger, and, if thou art not ſtone,
"Weep with Eurania, whoſe nymph is gone;
"A nymph whome thou would'ſt ſweare had been
"the ſame,
"Divine Eurania, but for her name;
"And yet her name her nature well expreſt,
"That in God's temple built her careful neſt,
"Thither to fly, that ſhee the eaſier may,
"Her young ones teach, herſelf (loe) leads the way."

T. Jennings del.t OUTSIDE VIEW OF H. MARTEN'S TOWER. W. B. direx.t

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R. H. del.t HARRY MARTEN'S TOWER, CHEPSTOW. W. B. direx.t

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of the admiralty, dean of the arches, and judge of the prerogative court for trade, who raiſed himſelf to honour and fortune by his induſtry and talents; and unlike his ſon attempted to moderate the miſunderſtanding between Charles the firſt and his parliament.

Henry the ſon was born at Oxford in 1602, and after receiving the rudiments of his education, in that town, was admitted a gentleman commoner of Univerſity college at the age of fifteen. He took his bachelor's degree in 1619, and repaired to London to commence the ſtudy of the law. He poſſeſſed good talents, which he greatly improved by claſſical attainments; his temper, however, was volatile and capricious, and he was too much inclined to pleaſure, to pay due attention to his intended profeſſion. But he was relieved from the neceſſity of application by eſpouſing a rich widow, whom he afterwards treated with great indifference and neglect.

The diſſoluteneſs of his life and immorality of his conduct led Marten to reject that pure religion which enjoins the controul of the paſſions. Hence he united with Harrington, Sydney, Wildman, Nevill, and others, who ſuppoſed themſelves more enlightened than the reſt of mankind, and denied the truth of revelation. The ſame licentiouſneſs of opinion, which delivered him from the reſtraints of religion, influenced his ſentiments on politics: warmed with the glowing images of Greek and Roman claſſics, he panted for a perfect commonwealth, a republic of repreſentatives choſen by the people, and wholly governed by public opinion, which admitted no diſtinction, but ſuperiority of genius, talents or ſcience.

Imbued with theſe principles he commenced his political career in 1640, and joined the party adverſe to the court. In the two laſt parliaments of Charles the firſt he repreſented Berkſhire, in which county he had conſiderable eſtates, and made a conſpicuous figure in the long parliament. He entered with warmth into the cabals of the republican party, and was among the foremoſt to diſplay his anti-monarchical principles, of which lord Clarendon, in the hiſtory of his own life, gives a ſtriking inſtance: "Mr. Hyde, walking between the parliament houſe and Weſtminſter, in the church yard met with Harry Martin, with whom

he lived very familiarly; and ſpeaking together about the proceedings of the houſes, Martin told him, that he would undo himſelf by his adhering to the court; to which he replied, that he had no relation to the court, and was only concerned to maintain the government and preſerve the law: and then told him that he could not conceive what he propoſed to himſelf; for he did not think him to be of the opinion or nature with thoſe men who governed the houſe; and aſked him what he thought of ſuch and ſuch men; and he very frankly anſwered, that he thought them knaves; and that when they had done as much as they intended to do, they ſhould be uſed as they had uſed others. The other preſſed him to ſay what he deſired; to which, after a little pauſe, he very roundly anſwered, *I do not think one man wiſe enough to govern us all:* which was the firſt word he ever heard any man ſpeak to that purpoſe; and would, without doubt, if it had been then communicated, or attempted, been the moſt abhorred by the whole nation, of any deſign that could be mentioned; and yet it appears it had even ſo early entered into the hearts of ſome deſperate perſons; that gentleman being at that time poſſeſſed of a very great fortune, and having great credit in his country *."

When the temper of the times enabled him to diſcloſe his ſentiments with leſs reſtraint, Marten added diſdain and inſult to hatred of royalty. At Longworth he tore in pieces, with his own hands, the king's commiſſion of array; "Being authorized by parliament, about 1642," to uſe the expreſſions of Anthony Wood, "he forced open a great iron cheſt, within the college of Weſtminſter, and thence took out the crown, robes, ſword, and ſceptre belonging anciently to king Edward the Confeſſor, and uſed by all our kings at their inaugurations; and with a ſcorn, greater than his luſts and the reſt of his vices, he openly declared that there ſhould be no further uſe of theſe toyes and trifles, &c. and in the jollity of that humour he inveſted George Wither (an old puritan ſatyriſt) in the royal habiliments; who being crowned and royally arrayed (as well right became him) did firſt march about the room, with a ſtately garb, and afterwards with a thouſand apiſh and ridiculous actions expoſed thoſe ſacred ornaments to contempt and laughter †."

He

* Life of Clarendon, vol. i. p. 81. † Wood's Athen. Oxon. vol. ii. p. 660.

Harding sc

HENRY MARTIN

From an original Picture in the possession of Chas. Lenox Esq.

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He afterwards ſpoke warmly in defence of a puritanical clergyman, named Saltmarſh; who in a publication, among other virulent expreſſions, declared that if the king would not grant the demands of the people, he and the royal line ſhould be rooted out, and the crown conferred on ſome other perſon. This obnoxious book being laid before the houſe, and a propoſal made to puniſh the author, Marten ſaid, he ſaw no reaſon to condemn Mr. Saltmarſh, for it was better that one family ſhould be deſtroyed than many; being required to explain his meaning, he replied, "the king and his children." Theſe violent expreſſions rouſing the indignation of the houſe, he was expelled and ſent to the Tower; but in a few months the republican ſpirit gained ſo much ground, that his friends without difficulty obtained the reverſal of his expulſion.

He was at this period held in high eſtimation by his party; his averſion to monarchy, his freedom in declaring his republican ſentiments, and his recent ſufferings in the cauſe of democracy, increaſed his popularity. His convivial manners and facetious diſcourſe, rendered him agreeable to perſons of all deſcriptions; he performed the moſt eſſential ſervice to the parliament by his eloquence, his writings, and his ſword, was ſo much favoured, that even the arreſt of one of his menial ſervants was highly reſented, and, as his biographer obſerves, "he was more inviolable than his ſovereign *."

When the parliament appointed a committee to receive contributions, and enliſt troops againſt the king, he warmly exerted himſelf in recommending this meaſure to the city of London, and concluded a virulent ſpeech, which he made on the occaſion, at the common hall, with theſe remarkable expreſſions; "either you muſt go forth all, and meet the enemy as vaſſals with ropes about your necks, or like men, with ſwords in your hands."

Marten diſplayed the ſame turbulent ſpirit in the country; in Berkſhire he forbad the people to ſtand bare at the ſeſſions, and do homage and fealty to their lords; "he gulled them," ſays Walker, "and gave them that which was not their due, to rob them of their due; their horſes, goods, and money, plundered from them, for ſervice of the ſtate, (forſooth) and beat them that defended their own; ſo that while he flattered them to be the ſupreme authority and lords paramount,

* Noble's Lives of the Regicides.

paramount, and the parliament to be their ſervants, he uſed them like ſlaves conquered by the parliament*."

Though a ſceptic he did not diſdain to uſe religion as a cloak to his ambitious views, and to promote his favourite commonwealth; he joined the independents, whoſe principles of government wholly coincided with his own, became one of the principal leaders, and gave direction and energy to their efforts. With them he canted and prayed, boaſted of receiving internal motions of the Holy Spirit; and, like Cromwell, contended that the ſaints alone were entitled to govern on earth.

He co-operated with Cromwell in overthrowing all eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhments, diſſolving the parliament, aboliſhing the monarchy, and bringing the king to the ſcaffold. For the purpoſe of carrying theſe deſigns into execution, it became neceſſary to encourage the *levellers*; Marten promoted this ſcheme with his uſual addreſs and activity, and particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf as their leader in the county of Leiceſter. In a little pamphlet, or more properly newſpaper †, publiſhed in 1648, the writer, a Leiceſterſhire gentleman of the name of Turvil, ſtates, "that by their ſtrange politick and ſubtle deluſion, they had wrought into the hearts of divers people to ingage with them, eſpecially among thoſe who are of a deſperate fortune and mean condition; the baſeſt and vileſt men reſorting to them." "They rob and plunder exceedingly whereſoever they come, ſaying, they will *levell* all ſorts of people, even from the higheſt to the loweſt, and that he that hath the moſt ſhall be equall to him that hath the leaſt."

Walker alſo mentions Marten as the great ſupporter of the levelling ſyſtem. "The chief things of note were, more complaints of Henry Martin, who now declares himſelf for a community of wealth, as well as of women, and proteſts againſt king, lords, gentry, lawyers, and clergy, nay againſt the parliament itſelf, in whoſe boſom this viper hath been foſtered, and againſt all magiſtrates; like a ſecond Wat Tyler, all pen and inkhorn men muſt down. His levelling doctrine is contained in a pamphlet, called "England's Troubler Troubled:" wherein all

* Walker's Hiſtory of Independency, part 2. p. 23.

† "Strange news from the Levellers, declaring their proceedings under the command of colonel Martin, in Leiceſterſhire and other parts adjacent, to the great terrour and amazement of all his majeſty's liege people."

all rich men whatſoever are declared enemies to the mean men of England, and (in effect) war denounced againſt them *."

In furtherance of the ſame plan he uſed his pen with no leſs effect than his ſword. He wrote numerous tracts †, ſuited to the politics of the times, and the genius of the populace, tending to throw odium on the regal office, and widen the breach between the king and parliament.

Thus aided by Marten and his adherents Cromwell matured his ſchemes of aggrandiſement, blockaded the houſe of commons, and excluded one hundred and ſixty members. On this occaſion Marten was extremely active, and his conduct is thus ludicrouſly deſcribed by Clement Walker: "The houſe being thoroughly purged, the next day in comes the Dr. O. Cromwell out of the country, bringing in under his protection that ſanctified member Henry Martin, who had ſpent much time in plundering the country, had often baffled the houſe, and diſobeyed many of their orders, ſufficient to have made an honeſt man a malignant liable to ſequeſtration. *But great is the privilege of the ſaints.* It fortuned that day the caſe of the ſecured members was reported to the houſe, which Harry interrupting, deſired them *to take into conſideration the deſerts of the lieutenant general*, which with all ſlaviſh diligence was preſently done ‡."

Marten and his party now exulted in their victory; they fondly hoped to govern Cromwell and the army, and were enraptured with the proſpect of moulding the government into that imaginary republic ſo long the object of their wiſhes. For this purpoſe they co-operated with Cromwell in voting the houſe of peers uſeleſs, and precipitating the trial and execution of Charles the firſt, in which the zeal of Marten was particularly conſpicuous.

Being preſent as colonel at a conſultation of the chief officers of the army, to ſecure

* Walker's Hiſtory of Independency, part 1. p. 136.

† Two of theſe tracts, printed in 1648, are preſerved from oblivion, and are entitled,

"The Independency of England endeavoured to be maintained, by Henry Marten, a Member of the Parliament there, againſt the Claim of the Scottiſh Commiſſioners, in their late Anſwer upon Bills and Propoſitions ſent to the King to the Iſle of Wight."

"The Parliament's Proceedings juſtified, in declining a Perſonall Treaty with the King, notwithſtanding the advice of the Scottiſh Commiſſioners to that purpoſe; by Henry Marten, eſq. a Member of the Houſe of Commons."

‡ Walker's Hiſtory of Independency, part 2, p. 34.

ſecure their advantages, he propoſed that they ſhould ſerve his majeſty as the Engliſh did his Scotch grandmother, by cutting off his head.

Marten alſo attended the council in the painted chamber; when the account was brought that the king had landed at ſir Robert Cotton's ſtairs at Whitehall, Cromwell ſtarted up, ran to the window, and ſaw the king coming up the garden. On returning he appeared embarraſſed, and ſaid to the board, "My maſters, he is come, and we are now doing that great work, that the whole nation will be full of, therefore I deſire you to let us reſolve what anſwer we ſhall give to the king when he comes before us, for the firſt queſtion he will aſk us will be, "By what authority and commiſſion do we try him?" to which none anſwered preſently; then after a little ſpace, Henry Marten roſe up, and ſaid, "In the name of the commons and parliament aſſembled, and all the good people of England;" this reply was accordingly adopted, when Charles, as had been conjectured, enquired by what authority he was tried *.

Marten was a member of the high court of juſtice, regularly attended the trial, was preſent when the ſentence was pronounced, and ſigned the warrant of death. On that ſolemn occaſion, his conduct proved his intimacy with Cromwell, and the unfeeling diſpoſition of both appears from an incident which tranſpired on his trial. Cromwell taking the pen in his hand to ſubſcribe his name, ſpattered with ink the face of Marten who ſat next him, and the pen being delivered to Marten, he practiſed the ſame frolic on Cromwell †.

The zeal diſplayed by Marten in the abolition of monarchy, the execution of the king, and the eſtabliſhment of a commonwealth, placed him in high eſtimation among the chiefs of the army and government; he was colonel of a regiment of horſe, governor of Reading, member of the committee of ſafety, and one of the council of ſtate. He ſhared in the plunder of the nation, and the pillage of the royaliſts; he was gratified with money under various pretences, received an aſſignment of £. 1,000 a year, out of the duke of Buckinghamſhire's eſtate at Emerſham, a preſent of £. 3,000, and his arrears to the amount of £. 25,000.

The

* Trials of the Regicides. † Ibid.

The conduct of Marten, and many other republicans, will assist in correcting the petulant and unfounded remark of the great Milton, that "the trappings of a monarchy would support a republic." He and many of those mock patriots, who inveighed with unceasing animosity against the peculation, oppression, and lavish grants of the crown, were guilty of greater oppression, peculation, and pillage, obtained more profuse grants from parliament, and increased the public expenditure in a tenfold proportion. So truly was it said by the lord chancellor Clarendon, "There was not a commonwealth in Europe, where every man that was worth one thousand pounds, did not pay more to the government, than a man of a thousand pounds a year ever did to the crown before the late troubles; and he was persuaded that the monster commonwealth cost this nation more in the years she was begot, born, and brought up, and in her funeral, than the monarchy had done these six hundred years *."

Marten however, and his republican associates, soon found that their visionary ideas of a perfect commonwealth could not be realised, and that by forwarding the encroachments of the army to destroy the presbyterians, they had created masters whom they could not controul; for notwithstanding their talents and address, they were duped by the superior art and activity of Cromwell, who separated himself from the republicans, and overturned in an instant the fabric of government which they had raised upon the ruins of the throne, and on the destruction of national liberty.

On the dissolution of the long parliament, which Marten ineffectually opposed, Cromwell retaliated on the republicans the insults which they had heaped on their unfortunate sovereign, and loaded them with the bitterest reproaches for their tyranny and robbery of the public. "In wrath taking sir Harry Vane junior by the cloak, he said thou art a juggling fellow; told Allen the goldsmith that he enriched himself by cozening the state, for which he should be called to account, and commanded his soldiers to turn them out of the house."

"Colonel

* Chandler's Debates, vol. 1. p. 36.

" Colonel Harriſon inſtantly dragged the ſpeaker from the chair; and Cromwell, as the members went out, pointing at Harry Marten, and Tom Chaloner, exclaimed, ' Is it fit that ſuch fellows as theſe ſhould ſit to govern? Men of vicious lives, the one a noted whoremaſter and the other a drunkard?' Nay, he boldly upbraided them all, with ſelling the cavaliers' eſtates by bundles, and ſaid they had kept no faith with them *."

Probably the rancour exhibited by Cromwell on this occaſion, was increaſed by Marten's rigid adherence to republican principles, which oppoſed his darling ambition of aſſuming the crown; for on the debate, whether there ſhould be a king or no king, Marten ſaid, " If they muſt have a king, he had rather have had the laſt than any gentleman in England; he found no fault in his perſon, but in his office †."

Neither the large ſums of money which Marten received from parliament, nor his own patrimony and his wife's eſtate, which together amounted to £.3,000 a year, were adequate to his inordinate expences. His profuſe ſtyle of living involved him in pecuniary diſtreſs, and his principal reſources were the ſalary of his offices and the pay of his regiment. But on the diſſolution of the long parliament he loſt theſe ſupplies, and his debts were ſo conſiderable, that he was arreſted and confined in the upper bench, where he continued unnoticed until the fall of the protectoral power.

The officers who formed the cabal of Wallingford houſe, and depoſed Richard Cromwell, having reſolved to reſtore the remnant of the long parliament, thirty-eight members of the rump aſſembled clandeſtinely in the painted chamber, and for the purpoſe of making up a houſe, ſummoned Whitlocke and Liſle from the court of chancery, and Marten and lord Monſon from priſon. This junto were no ſooner aſſembled, than fourteen of the ſecluded members repaired to the lobby, and demanded admittance, on the juſt principle, that if the long parliament was not diſſolved, they were equally entitled to ſeats. Their demand however

* Dugdale's View of the Troubles in England, p. 405. † Walker's Hiſtory of Independency, part 2. p. 150.

ever was rejected; the forty-two re-eſtabliſhed the commonwealth, and nominated a council of ſtate, conſiſting of twenty-one members, and ten who were not of the houſe.

In theſe and the ſubſequent tranſactions, Marten was never conſulted, and bore no conſpicuous part; he was not one of the council, and only aſſiſted in ſanctioning the unwarrantable acts of this ſelf-created government. This ſhadow of a parliament however, no ſooner ſhewed ſymptoms of returning ſpirit, and ſeemed inclined to act independently of the officers, than it was diſſolved, the military government re-eſtabliſhed, and the kingdom again threatened with increaſing anarchy, or increaſing deſpotiſm.

From this deplorable ſtate the nation was relieved by general Monk, who availing himſelf of the public ſentiments, was enabled, with a ſmall body of 8,000 men, to annihilate the military government, and re-eſtabliſh the monarchy.

At the reſtoration Marten ſurrendered on the proclamation, and was brought to trial at the Old Bailey as one of the regicides. After pleading a miſnomer *, both in the act of oblivion, and in the indictment, which was over-ruled, he declared himſelf not guilty, and made an able and ſpirited defence, in which he diſplayed great firmneſs of mind and acuteneſs of argument, though blended with much petulance and chicanery. He confeſſed the fact of attending the trial, and ſigning the warrant for the king's execution, but denied the malicious intention; and argued, that no action could be conſidered as a crime but as it was circumſtantiated. When the counſel for the crown proved that he acted maliciouſly by the depoſition of witneſſes, who ſtated his frolicſome behaviour on the ſignature of the warrant, and his advice to the commiſſioners to try the king "In the name of the parliament and all the good people of England," he anſwered, "My lord, the commiſſion went in the name of the commons aſſembled in parliament, and the good people of England; and what a matter is it for one of the commiſſioners to ſay, let it be acted by the *good people* of England."

Finding,

* Being excepted and indicted as *Henry* Martin, he urged that his name was Harry Marten; his ſignature on the king's warrant is Hen. Marten.

Finding, however, that the confidence of his deportment, and his quibbling remarks, diſguſted the court; obſerving the impreſſion made by the depoſition of the witneſſes, he was apprehenſive leſt the jury ſhould be affected by the reply of the ſolicitor general; "You know all *good* people did abhor it: I am ſorry to ſee ſo little repentance;" and artfully added, "My lord, I hope that which is urged by the learned counſel, will not have that impreſſion upon the court and jury which it ſeems to have, that I am ſo obſtinate in a thing ſo apparently ill. My lord, if it were poſſible for that blood to be in the body again, and every drop that was ſhed in the late wars, I could wiſh it with all my heart. But, my lord, I hope it is lawful to offer in my own defence that, which, when I did it, I thought I might do."

He then wholly reſted his defence on the neceſſity of obedience to the exiſting government, and ſubmitted himſelf to the king's mercy; "I think," he added, "his majeſty that now is, is king upon the beſt title under heaven; for he was called in by the repreſentative body of England. I ſhall, during my life, long or ſhort, pay obedience to him; beſides, my lord, I do owe my life to him if I am acquitted. I do confeſs I did adhere to the parliament's army heartily; my life is at his mercy; if his grace be pleaſed to grant it, I have a double obligation to him." He concluded, "I have one word more; though I am accuſed in the name of the king, if I be acquitted, the king is not caſt; it doth not concern the king that the priſoner be condemned, it concerns him that the priſoner be tried; it is as much for his intereſt, crown, and dignity, that the innocent be acquitted, as that the nocent be condemned*."

Being found guilty, he petitioned parliament for pardon, obtained a reſpite, and, in company with the regicides who came in upon proclamation, was brought before the houſe of lords to anſwer why judgment ſhould not be executed. They ſeverally alledged, "That, upon his Majeſty's gracious declaration from Breda, and upon the votes of parliament, and his majeſty's proclamation, publiſhed by the advice of the lords and commons, they did render themſelves,

* Trials of the Regicides.

themſelves, being adviſed that they ſhould thereby ſecure their lives, and humbly craved the benefit thereof, the mercy of the houſes, and their mediation to his majeſty in their behalfs." Marten petulantly added, "that he had never obeyed any proclamation before this, and hoped that he ſhould not be hanged for taking the king's word now *."

His enmity to Cromwell, and ſurrender on the proclamation, were juſtly urged by his friends, as motives for pardon; which he obtained on condition of perpetual impriſonment. He was firſt confined in the tower, but ſoon removed to the caſtle of Chepſtow; in both of which places he was treated with great lenity. His wife was permitted to reſide with him; he had the full enjoyment of his property, and was allowed to receive viſits, and to frequent, in company with a guard, the houſes of the neighbouring gentry, particularly that of St. Pierre, where his portrait is ſtill preſerved †. His ſituation could not be diſtreſſed, as Mrs. Williams recollected two of his maid ſervants, who always mentioned him as a kind maſter, and were able to ſave money in his ſervice.

Misfortune and impriſonment however do not ſeem to have had the ſmalleſt effect in changing his regicidal principles. His epitaph, compoſed by himſelf, proves that he died as he lived, a ſtaunch republican; and an anecdote current in the family of St. Pierre, confirms this fact: converſing one day on the politics of paſt times, Mr. Lewis aſked him if the ſcene could be brought back, and the actors again introduced on the ſtage of life, whether he would ſign the warrant for the execution of his ſovereign? Marten replied in the affirmative. Mr. Lewis, diſguſted with this anſwer, withdrew his protection, and never again received him at St. Pierre.

Marten lived to the advanced age of ſeventy-eight, and died by a ſtroke of apoplexy, which ſeiſed him while he was at dinner, in the 20th year of his confinement. He was buried in the chancel of the pariſh church at Chepſtow. Over his aſhes was placed a ſtone with an inſcription, which remained there until one of the ſucceeding vicars, declaring his abhorrence that the monument of a reeal ſhould ſtand ſo near the altar, removed the ſtone into the body of the church.

The

* Chandler's Debates. vol. 1. p. 49. † See p. 4.

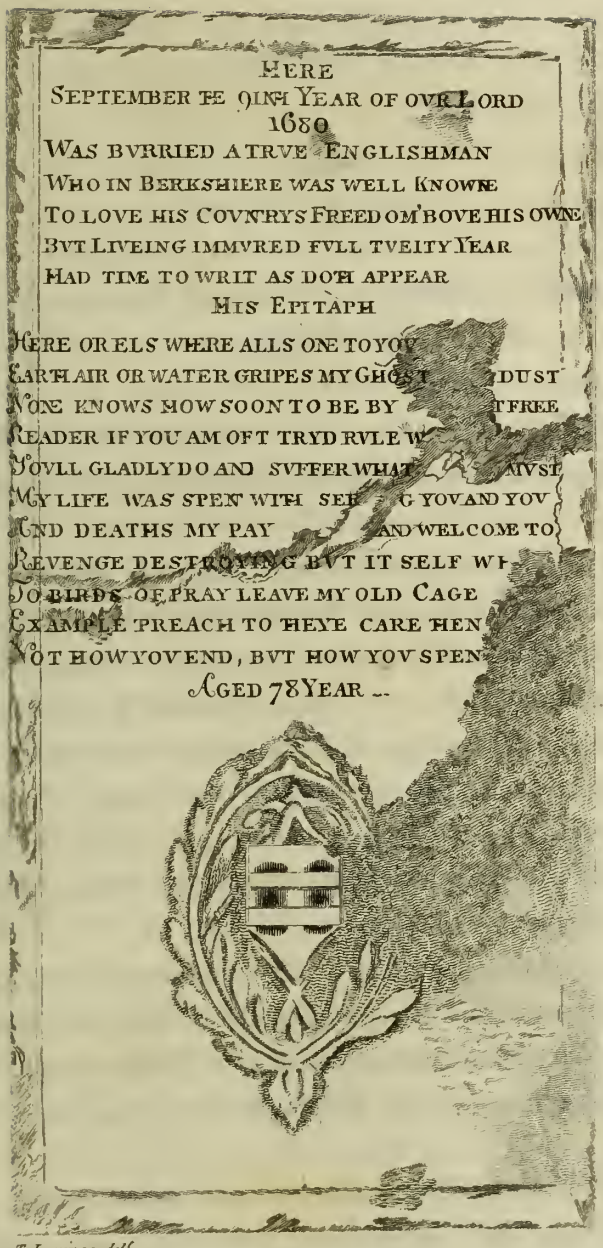
The epitaph, compoſed by himſelf, is in theſe words:

" HERE
" September the 9, in the Year of our Lord 1680,
" Was buryed a true Engliſhman
" Who in *Berkſhire* was well known
" To love his country's freedom 'bove his own
" But living immured full twenty year
" Had time to write as doth appear
" His Epitaph

" H ere or elſewhere (all's one, to you, to me,)
" E arth, air, or water, gripes my ghoſtleſs duſt
" N one knows how ſoon to be by fire ſett free
" R eader if you an oft tryed rule will truſt,
" Y ou'll gladly do and ſuffer what you muſt.

" M y life was ſpent with ſerving you, and you,
" A nd death's my pay (it ſeems) and welcome too;
" R evenge deſtroying but itſelf, while I
" T o birds of prey leave my old cage, and fly.
" E xamples preach to th' eye, care then (mine ſays)
" N ot how you end, but how you ſpend your dayes."

Henry Marten exhibits a ſtriking inſtance, that thoſe who begin revolutions are ultimately ſacrificed by thoſe who continue them, and that they, who ſhake off the due reſtraints of a legal and regular government, will ſuffer greater oppreſſions from thoſe whom they contributed to elevate, than they even apprehended from the monarch whom they aſſiſted to dethrone. His example is alſo a proof that the loudeſt declaimers againſt tyranny and peculation, when raiſed to power often become the greateſt tyrants and plunderers themſelves; and affords a ſalutary warning to the people, that the abolition of eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhments, leads to the extirpation of religion and morality; and that viſionary ſchemes of perfect liberty, terminate either in republican deſpotiſm, or in the tyranny of uſurped authority.



T. Jennings del.

The simile of Henry Martens Tombstone

CHAPTER 40.

Piercefield.—Proprietors.—Anecdotes of Valentine Morris.—Houſe.—Grounds.—Wynd Cliff.

DURING my ſucceſſive tours I paid repeated viſits to Piercefield, which ſince the improvements of Valentine Morris, has become the ornament of the county.

Piercefield was long the property of the family of Walters: a curious ſtone chimney-piece, ſtill preſerved in the ſervants hall, with the date of 1553, is ornamented with a ſhield of arms, of which the firſt quartering, a ſquirrel ſejant, is the bearing of the family. In 1727, John Walters ſold the place to Thomas Rous, eſq. of Wooton Underedge, Gloceſterſhire; from whoſe ſon it was purchaſed, in 1736, by colonel Valentine Morris, who ſerved for ſome time in a military line in the iſland of St. Vincent's. He came to Piercefield in 1739, made additions to the old manſion, which was little better than a farm houſe, and reſided there till his death.

His ſon Valentine Morris was born in 1727, and at an early period inherited conſiderable property, principally ſituated in the iſland of Antigua. About 1752, he eſpouſed miſs Mary Mordaunt, niece of lord Peterborough, a lady of great beauty and accompliſhments, but without fortune, and fixed his reſidence at Piercefield.

Before this period Piercefield was unknown and unfrequented; the charms of the ſituation were not duly appreciated, and the grounds ſolely employed for the purpoſes of agriculture, or covered with inacceſſible foreſts. Morris was enraptured

raptured with the romantic beauties of the ſcenery, carried walks through the foreſts, opened the fineſt points of view, and with exquiſite taſte adapted his improvements to the genius of the place, leaving

" The negligence of nature, wide and wild *."

He lived in a ſtyle of princely rather than private magnificence, and treated thoſe whom curioſity drew to the ſcenes of Piercefield, with a liberal but oſtentatious profuſion: ſervants out of livery conſtantly attended without being permitted to receive any gratuity; collations were indiſcriminately offered to the numerous viſitors; and even his hot-houſe, cellar, and larder, were open to the innkeeper of Chepſtow for the accommodation of travellers.

After a reſidence of ſeveral years his circumſtances became involved, and he was compelled to offer Piercefield for ſale. This embarraſſment is generally imputed to the expences of a conteſted election in 1771, for the county of Monmouth, with John Morgan, eſq. of Tredegar; but the real cauſes were derived from a variety of circumſtances; an expenſive ſtyle of living, numerous benefactions, imprudent management of his Weſt India eſtates, a ſucceſſion of unfavourable ſeaſons in the iſland of Antigua, inattention to his accounts, but, above all, an unfortunate propenſity to gaming. Being diſappointed in finding a purchaſer for Piercefield, he contracted his expences into a narrower ſcale; but it was too late, and his embarraſſments increaſing, he was compelled to retire to his Weſt India poſſeſſions.

Before his final departure from England he indulged himſelf with bidding adieu to Piercefield. In company with a friend, he ſurveyed his own creation, for the laſt time, with apparent compoſure and manly reſignation. On his return to Chepſtow he was ſurrounded by the poor, who throwing themſelves on their knees, thanked him for numerous inſtances of his bounty, and implored the bleſſing of heaven on their generous benefactor. Even this affecting ſpectacle he bore with ſilent fortitude, and entered the chaiſe which conveyed him to London. But he had no ſooner reached the Gloceſterſhire ſide of the bridge, than his ear was ſtruck with a mournful peal of bells, muffled, as is uſual on the loſs of de-

* Thomſon.

parted friends; deeply affected with this mark of eſteem and regret, he could no longer controul his emotions, and burſt into tears*.

On his return to the Weſt Indies he was appointed lieutenant governor of St. Vincent's, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf with ſo much zeal and activity in promoting the cultivation of the iſland, where he almoſt raiſed another Piercefield, that he was ſoon after nominated governor in chief. In this ſituation he conſiderably improved his fortune, and had almoſt repaired his loſſes, when the iſland, for the defence of which he advanced conſiderable ſums, was taken by the French. In vain he applied to government for the payment of his expences and arrears; the want of proper vouchers, diſagreement with the natives and officers, the blame incurred from a precipitate capitulation, and a variety of other unfortunate events, protracted the diſcharge of the debt.

Thus circumſtanced, he returned to England for the purpoſe of ſeeking redreſs, but with ſmall hopes of ſucceſs, for he obſerved to a friend that he ſhould paſs the winter in the king's bench priſon. This prediction was too well fulfilled; he was arreſted ſoon after his arrival, and underwent a confinement of ſeven years.

During his impriſonment he publiſhed a juſtification of his adminiſtration at St. Vincent's, which does him honour as a governor, a ſoldier, and a patriot; yet, from deaths and frequent change of miniſtry, his accounts were never audited or ſettled, though his demands were great and juſt; for a treaſury warrant for £. 5,000, dated June 28, 1794, was iſſued to his repreſentatives as part of the balance.

He was reduced to the greateſt diſtreſs; his books and all his moveables were expoſed to ſale; even the gleanings of Mrs. Morris's toilet were ſold to purchaſe bread; and his friend Mr. Thickneſſe, who ſhared his confinement, ſhared with him the ſcanty pittance which he poſſeſſed to ſupply his neceſſities. His calamities were aggravated by the ſituation of his amiable wife, who ſunk under this load of diſtreſs, and became inſane.

At length, in 1786, he obtained his liberty, and lord North, compaſſionating his

* For this intereſting anecdote I am indebted to Mr. Jennings.

his diſtreſs, expreſſed an inclination to redeem the injuſtice of former adminiſtrations, and to liquidate his arrears. But public buſineſs and new delays interpoſing, protracted the ſettlement of his affairs. In the midſt of theſe diſappointments he died at the houſe of his brother-in-law, Mr. Wilmot, in Bloomſbury ſquare, on the 26th of Auguſt 1789.

His friend Mr. Thickneſſe, who knew him well, and who equally ſhared his proſperity and misfortunes, has thus delineated his character:

" That he was a man of ſuperior taſte, and the moſt amiable manners, all who knew him know; and his natural capacity, if it was not in the firſt rank, was very far from being of an inferior claſs; but among his misfortunes, for ſo it muſt be conſidered, at leaſt as relating to this world, he poſſeſſed that goodneſs of heart to the laſt which led him to judge of mankind, not from what he had found them, but from what he felt in himſelf. The leading feature in his character was a zeal which approached to Quixotiſm, whether it was employed in the ſervice of his country, his friend, or the diſtreſſed. He has, indeed, been repreſented as too much under the influence of a vain oſtentation; and the generoſity, the urbanity, and the charities of his life, have been imputed to that principle; but by whom? By thoſe who envied his proſperity, and ſought to frame an excuſe for their ingratitude in his adverſity; what other vanity governed his character, than that which is the main ſpring of human excellence, we know not; but this we know and repeat, that he was a moſt faithful ſervant of his country; that he poſſeſſed an eminent capacity for friendſhip; that he never failed to aſſiſt diſtreſs when he could, and that he did aſſiſt it when he ought not. He ſhared his good things, in the day of his fortune, with the friends of his proſperity; and he divided the pittance that remained in the hour of his diſtreſs with the companions of his adverſity. He had his failings, which diſaſters might increaſe, and the inſolent rigour of affected virtue may condemn. That his paſſions might ſometimes overcome his morality, and that the benevolence of his heart might too often extinguiſh his prudence, are circumſtances which it is the duty of friendſhip to lament. But the beſt of us are the children of infirmity; and the virtues of

Valentine Morris were ſufficient, in the opinion of thoſe who knew him beſt, to counterbalance all his errors *."

During his reſidence at Piercefield, Valentine Morris diſtinguiſhed himſelf by many acts of public utility, and his name is ſtill endeared to the county for promoting the turnpike bill, the ſucceſs of which was principally owing to his exertions.

The inhabitants of Chepſtow idoliſe his memory, and relate numerous inſtances of his benevolence with a warmth of affection which borders on enthuſiaſm; among others, one which does honour to his feelings, ſhould not be omitted.

Holding one day a converſation with Mr. Knowles, whom he employed in building the alcove, and from whom I received the anecdote, he made enquiries concerning the family of Walters, and aſked if any of them were yet living. Knowles replied, that William, the brother of John who ſold the eſtate, was ſtill alive and in great diſtreſs. "Bring him to Piercefield," ſaid Morris, "and I will make him welcome." "If you would give him your whole eſtate he could not walk, he is ſo much afflicted with the gout in his feet, and earns a precarious livelihood by fiſhing." "If he cannot then come to me, I will take the firſt opportunity of calling on him."

Being ſome time afterwards engaged with Knowles in forming an opening in the wood, he ſaw two men in a boat; "Stay here," he ſaid to Knowles, "I will croſs the river in that boat, and examine whether the objects I want to ſhew can be ſeen from hence." Deſcending haſtily, he hailed the watermen, leaped into the boat, was ferried over, and on his return entered into converſation with the men, and enquired their names and condition. "My name," ſaid one of them, "is * * * * * I am a native of Chepſtow; and that man," pointing to his companion, "is William Walters."—"What, Walters of Piercefield?" exclaimed Morris. "Yes, pleaſe your honour, I am the brother of John who ſold the eſtate which you now enjoy." Morris made no reply; but giving a gratuity to each of the men, leaped on ſhore, rapidly aſcended the hill, and

* Biographical anecdotes of Valentine Morris, Gent. Mag. for Sept. 1789.

G Holmes dd.

T Medland sculp.

PIERCEFIELD,

The Seat of Mark Wood Esq.r seen from the opposite heights.

Pub Jan.y 22. 1801. by Messrs. Cadell & Davies. Strand

and rejoining Knowles, cried, " I have been talking with Walters;" taking out ſeveral guineas, he added, " carry theſe to him, and tell him that he ſhall never want while it is in my power to aſſiſt him." Knowles ſuggeſted, that as the man was much addicted to liquor, he would render him more ſervice by a weekly allowance. The next market day one of Morris's ſervants carried to Walters a joint of meat, and a ſmall ſum of money, which were continued weekly until his death. Morris defrayed the expences of his funeral, and his carriage conveyed the corpſe to St. Arvan's, where it was interred in the family vault.

In 1784, Piercefield was bought by George Smith, eſq. of Burnhall in the county of Durham, and in 1794 by the preſent proprietor colonel Wood, formerly chief engineer of Bengal, and member of parliament for Newark. Colonel Wood has increaſed the property by different purchaſes in the vicinity, particularly part of the peninſula of Lancaut; the whole conſiſting of not leſs than three thouſand acres, of which a conſiderable portion is woodland; the timber alone on the eſtate of Piercefield was eſtimated at £. 8,000. He has likewiſe conſiderably improved the place, and reſtored many of the walks, which were choked with underwood, to their former beauty under Valentine Morris.

A new lodge of freeſtone, with an iron gate and paliſados, leads from the high road into the park; and the approach to the houſe is conducted with great taſte under the direction of Mr. Meickle. In paſſing through the grounds the eye is charmed with the diverſity of ſcenery; hill and dale, woodlands and lawns, venerable groves of oak, elm, beech, and cheſnut, ſtupendous rocks crowned with ivy and underwood, form a ſtriking aſſemblage, and prepare the traveller for the beauties of Piercefield.

The houſe is a magnificent building of freeſtone, ſeated nearly in the center of the park, and ſurrounded by lawns and open groves of wide ſpreading oak beech and elm. It ſtands on an elevation of ground that ſlopes gently to the banks of the Wy, and commands a diſtant and delightful view over the broad Severn and the red cliffs of Auſt, backed by the fertile hills of Gloceſterſhire; oppoſite appear the white rocks of Lancaut, which here loſe their rugged form and harmoniſe with the ſurrounding ſcenery; beneath the caſtle and town of Chepſtow preſent

ſent themſelves to ſingular advantage, and the Wy ſweeps in grand curves among rocks and woods, until it falls into the Severn.

The houſe in which Valentine Morris reſided was partly pulled down by Mr. Smith, and a new edifice begun, of which the ſkeleton was nearly finiſhed when the place was purchaſed by the preſent proprietor. Colonel Wood removed the old part of the building, and conſiderably extended and improved the plan; he added a doric portico, and handſome wings in the ſame ſtyle of architecture, which are ornamented with ſtatues, and enriched with baſſo relievos, from the deſigns of the firſt artiſts.

The interior diſtribution of the principal apartments is excellent, equally calculated for private comfort or public ſplendor. The ſaloon or entrance is an oblong octagon, with a moſaic pavement of Painſwick ſtone and black marble; it is decorated with beautiful verd antique ſcalioli pilaſters, and leads to the grand ſtaircaſe, through a porch with verd antique columns, ſupporting a fanlight of painted glaſs executed with conſiderable taſte. This porch is cloſed by folding doors of looking glaſs, in which the reflection of the diverſified proſpect from the front of the houſe forms a pleaſing deception.

On each ſide of the ſaloon are the withdrawing and dining rooms, finiſhed and furniſhed in an elegant and coſtly ſtyle, and adorned with corinthian pilaſters of Egyptian marble, and ſculptures, and alto relievos by the beſt maſters. Theſe apartments are connected with the breakfaſt and billiard rooms, and lead through a conſervatory on each ſide to the library and muſic room, which form the ground floor of the wings. The perſpective of this ſuite, even in its preſent unfiniſhed ſtate, attracts particular notice; and when the conſervatories are filled with rare and beautiful plants, will be inexpreſſibly ſtriking.

The grand ſtaircaſe is of Painſwick ſtone, and riſes by three flights of ſteps to a gallery, which forms the principal communication with the bed-chambers. The ſides of this gallery are hung with four exquiſite pieces of gobeline tapeſtry, ſixteen feet by fourteen, which belonged to Louis the ſixteenth. They exhibit the natural hiſtory of Africa, and repreſent every production of the animal and vegetable kingdoms, grouped with admirable taſte and ſcience, and uniting correctneſs of deſign with richneſs and beauty of colouring.

The

Surveyed by Maull.

The preſent proprietor has ſpared no expence to render the manſion of Piercefield ſuitable to the grandeur and beauty of the ſurrounding ſcenery: all the apartments unite harmony of proportion with coſtlineſs of decoration, and Piercefield ſcarcely yields to any houſe in this kingdom in taſte and ſplendor.

Although, in conſequence of a kind and hoſpitable reception by colonel Wood, I had an opportunity to examine at my leiſure the grounds of Piercefield, I feel it extremely difficult to give an adequate deſcription of this enchanting ſpot, where nature wantons in ſuch variety, and combines ſo great a portion of the beautiful, the pictureſque, and the ſublime.

The grounds occupy an extenſive ſpace, ſtretching between the road and the Wy, from Wynd Cliff to the caſtle of Chepſtow; and the walk leading from one extremity to the other, is ſcarcely leſs than three miles in length.

In the compoſition of the ſcenery, the meandring Wy, the ſteep cliffs, and the fertile peninſula of Lancaut, form the ſtriking characteriſtics.

The Wy, which is every where ſeen from a great elevation, paſſes between Wynd Cliff and the Banagor rocks, winds round the peninſula of Lancaut, under a ſemicircular chain of ſtupendous cliffs, is loſt in its ſinuous courſe, again appears in a ſtraighter line at the foot of the Lancaut rocks, and flows under the majeſtic ruins of Chepſtow caſtle *, towards the Severn.

The rocks are broken into an infinite variety of fantaſtic ſhapes, and ſcattered at different heights and in different poſitions; they ſtart abruptly from the river, ſwell into gentle acclivities, or hang on the ſummits of the hills; here they form a perpendicular rampart, there jet into enormous projections, and impend over the water.

But their dizzy heights and abrupt precipices are ſoftened by the woods, which form a no leſs conſpicuous feature in the romantic ſcenery; they are not meagre plantations placed by art, but a tract of foreſts ſcattered by the hand

* To view theſe delightful ſcenes in full perfection, the traveller ought to viſit the place at high tide, when the river is full; he ſhould paſs through the village of St. Arvan's, to the upper part of the grounds, and deſcend from the Lover's Leap to the alcove, by which he will enjoy the whole ſcenery in proper ſucceſſion, and to the greateſt advantage.

hand of nature. In one place they expand into open groves of large oak, elm, and beech; in another form a ſhade of timber trees, copſes, and underwood, hiding all external objects, and wholly impervious to the rays of the ſun; they ſtart from the crevices of the rocks, feather their edges, crown their ſummits, clothe their ſides, and fill the intermediate hollows with a luxuriant maſs of foliage, bringing to recollection Milton's deſcription of the border

" Of Eden, where delicious paradiſe,
" Now nearer, crowns with her incloſure green,
" As with a rural mound, the champain head
" Of a ſteep wilderneſs, whoſe hairy ſides
" With thicket overgrown, groteſque and wild,
" Acceſs deny'd, and over head up grew
" Inſuperable height of loftieſt ſhade,
" - - - - - - - - - - - - - -
" A ſylvan ſcene, and as the ranks aſcend
" Shade above ſhade, a woody theatre
" Of ſtatelieſt view *."

The peninſula of Lancaut, on the oppoſite bank, in the midſt of theſe impending rocks, and hanging woods, is a farm in the higheſt ſtate of cultivation. The ground ſwells gradually from the edge of the water towards the iſthmus, on which ſtands the farm-houſe, backed by rugged rocks; open groves and ſingle trees are ſcattered over the meadows and corn fields, and the margin of the river is ſkirted with a mantle of verdure, and fringed with a range of fine elms.

On entering the grounds at the extremity of the village of St. Arvan's, and at the bottom of Wynd Cliff, the walk leads through plantations, commanding on the right a diſtant view of the Severn and the ſurrounding country; it penetrates into a thick foreſt, and conducts to the Lover's Leap, where the Wynd Cliff is ſeen towering above the river in all its height and beauty, and below yawns a deep and wooded abyſs. It waves almoſt imperceptibly in a grand outline,

* Paradiſe Loſt, b. iv. l. 132,—142.

line, on the brow of the majeſtic amphitheatre of cliffs impending over the Wy, oppoſite to the peninſula of Lancaut, then croſſes the park, runs through groves and thickets, and again joins the bank of the Wy, at that reach of the river which ſtretches from Lancaut to the caſtle of Chepſtow.

From the Lover's Leap the walk is carried through a thick mantle of foreſts, with occaſional openings, which ſeem not the reſult of art or deſign, but the effect of chance or nature, and ſeats placed where the ſpectator may repoſe and view at leiſure the ſcenery above, beneath, and around *. This

" bowr'y walk
" Of covert cloſe, where ſcarce a ſpeck of day
" Falls on the lengthen'd gloom †,"

is conſonant to the genius of Piercefield ; the ſcreen of wood prevents the uniformity of a bird's eye view, and the imperceptible bend of the amphitheatre conveys the ſpectator from one part of this fairy region to another without diſcovering the gradations. Hence the Wy is ſometimes concealed or half obſcured by overhanging foliage, at others, wholly expanding to view, is ſeen ſweeping beneath in a broad and circuitous channel; hence at one place the Severn ſpreads in the midſt of a boundleſs expanſe of country, and on the oppoſite ſide to the Wy ; at another, both rivers appear on the ſame ſide, and the Severn ſeems ſupported on the level ſummit of the cliffs which form the banks of

* Theſe views, the beauties of which I ſhall not attempt to deſcribe, are 1. The Lover's Leap. 2. A Seat near two beeches on the edge of the precipice. 3 The Giant's Cave, which occupies the center of the amphitheatre, and overlooks Lancaut peninſula. 4. The Half-way Seat under a large beech tree. 5. The double view. 6. Above Pierce-wood. 7. The Grotto. 8. The Platform. 9. The Alcove.

A part of the grounds not uſually viſited, is however worthy the notice of the pictureſque traveller. From the Giant's Cave, a road winds beautifully along the brow of the cliff to a grove of lofty oak, beech and ſycamore, wholly cleared from underwood, in the center of the extenſive foreſt which ſpreads beneath the Lover's Leap. In this charming and ſequeſtered ſpot is a cold bath, ſupplied by a copious and tranſparent rill, which ſprings at the foot of the Wynd Cliff, and ripples down the ſide of the declivity. The road then deſcends to Marlridge meadow, on the bank of the Wy, where the river appears like a lake, and the fertile peninſula of Lancaut riſes in a gentle acclivity from the margin of the ſtream to the iſthmus. A beautiful walk two miles in length ſkirts this meadow, at the foot of the ſtupendous range of Piercefield Cliffs, and then mounts to the houſe by ſteps cut in a ſteep rock. As the houſe ſtands ſeveral hundred feet above the river, the aſcent is long and difficult; but the toil is amply repaid by the beauty and ſublimity of the ſcenes.

† Thomſon.

of the Wy. Hence the ſame objects preſent themſelves in different aſpects and with varied accompaniments; hence the magic tranſition from the impervious gloom of the foreſts to open groves; from meadows and lawns, to rocks and precipices, and from the mild beauties of Engliſh landſcape to the wildneſs of Alpine ſcenery.

The ſummit of Wynd Cliff, which towers above the northern extremity of the grounds, commands in one point of view the whole extent of this intereſting ſcenery. As I ſtood on the brow of this precipice, I looked down upon the fertile peninſula of Lancaut, ſurrounded with rocks and foreſts, contemplated the hanging woods, rich lawns, and romantic cliffs of Piercefield, the caſtle and town of Chepſtow, and traced the Wy, ſweeping in the true outline of beauty, from the Banagor crags to its junction with the Severn, which ſpreads into an æſtuary and is loſt in the diſtant ocean.

A boundleſs extent of country is ſeen in every direction from this commanding eminence, comprehending not leſs than nine counties: in the midſt of this expanſe, I principally directed my attention to the ſubject of my Tour, which now drew to a concluſion; I traced with pleaſing ſatisfaction, not unmixed with regret, the luxuriant vallies, and romantic hills of this intereſting county, which I had traverſed in various directions; but I dwelt with peculiar admiration on the majeſtic rampart which forms its boundary to the weſt, and extends in one grand and broken outline, from the banks of the Severn to the Black mountains,

" where the broken landſcape, by degrees
" Aſcending, roughens into rigid hills;
" O'er which the CAMBRIAN MOUNTAINS, like far clouds
" That ſkirt the blue horiſon, duſky riſe."

THOMSON'S SPRING.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.—N° 1.

Letter from Mr. Owen, Author of the Welſh and Engliſh Dictionary *; containing Remarks on the Structure of the Welſh Language, and on the Characteriſtics of the Gwentian Dialect; accompanied with two Odes.*

THE Welſh tongue being ſtill prevalent in the county of Monmouth, I am anxious that you ſhould inform the world of its true character, and that it is not a rough and unpoliſhed jargon. I take the liberty therefore of exhibiting to you ſome of its prominent features. Having already beſtowed the labour of upwards of fifteen years in forming a dictionary of this language †, I am induced to hope that credit may be given to my ſtatement.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE.

There are nearly three hundred poſſible ſounds, or articulations. Theſe, with the exception of about forty, are preſerved, form the baſis of the Welſh tongue, and denote reſpectively ſome ſimple or abſtract idea. From theſe radical ſounds all compound words are regularly derived, and conſequently every component part of long words has an independent ſignification. If the ſmall number of ſimple ſounds which I have mentioned to be wanting, were recovered and brought into uſe, the reſult would be, that no articulation could be uttered, which had not ſome meaning attached to it in this tongue.

COPIOUSNESS OF EXPRESSION.

The late Lewis Morris ventured to aſſert, that the Welſh is more copious than any other four languages united. I am fully ſatisfied that he has not over-rated its copiouſneſs; and that it would not be difficult to convince ſtrangers of the truth of the poſition; but I ſhall here merely point out the primary ſource of ſuch a compaſs of ſpeech. Compound words may be formed from the radical ſounds, without any other limit than ſuch as may ariſe from the abſurdity or contrariety of ideas, forbidding their connection. Another characteriſtic of the language is, that all the prefixes and terminations of words are univerſal in their application, and the multiplicity of ſuch prefixes and tetminations may be learnt from the following table.

Number of prefixes - - - - -	64.	Terminations of Plural Nouns - -	19.
Terminations of Nouns - - - -	58.	Plural Diminutives - - - - - - -	5.
of Adjectives - - -	21.	Singular Noun Diminutives - - -	6.
of Infinitive Verbs - -	10.		

A ſimple

* This aſtoniſhing work, formed by the labour of one man, cannot be too ſtrongly recommended to the patrons and lovers of philology. It elucidates the laws, hiſtory, poetry, antiquities and learning of the ancient Britons; is accompanied with numerous quotations from their beſt writers, and will contain the enormous number of 75,000 words more than any Welſh dictionary yet extant. It is publiſhed in parts, and the fourth, which has been recently given to the public, includes the letter I. But this work is only part of a grand and extenſive plan. "The dictionary," obſerves the learned author, in a letter lately received, "I conſider as part only of a work of great extent, intended as a proof that all the languages of Europe are deſcended from an original language. In developing the ſubject, one volume will contain the Engliſh words, and another the French words derived from the Welſh; there will be alſo two other comparative vocabularies, one with the Greek, and the other with the Latin. With reſpect to the Engliſh, under the letter B. for inſtance, I have rejected all the words obviouſly borrowed from known languages; the reſult has left between 1,500 and 1,600 words, about 900 of which have been ſuppoſed to be Saxon, and the reſt ſtand in the dictionaries as derived from the Welſh, and unaccounted for; but of theſe I ſhall prove about 800 to be Saxon, and 700 and upwards to be Welſh.

† One inducement for undertaking this work was, becauſe there was no dictionary extant which contained more than about fifteen thouſand words of the language. The preſent work compriſes about one hundred thouſand words; and muſt ſtill be conſidered merely as a collected ſpecimen of words uſed, and not as the compaſs of the language.

A ſimple verb is capable of being expreſſed in five different ways, or by ſo many conjugations; to which nineteen different prefixes may be put to modify its meaning: for inſtance, any verb may be made reciprocal or reflective, by prefixing *ym* to it.

Examples:

Uno, to unite, *Ymuno*, to unite one's ſelf, to become united.
Gweled, to ſee, *Ymweled*, to ſee one another.
Rhyymwelsynt, they had before ſeen each other.

To the verb *Briwo*, to break into particles, to ſpray—there are three prefixes, where it is uſed in the following line—

"*Dyçymmriw ton amliw am lan*," CASNODYN of Gwent.
The various-tinted wave *will be ſpraying itſelf* about the ſhore.

By computing the number of ſimple verbs at about 10,000, it follows, from the above-mentioned combinations, that we can, including the ſimple and compound, employ upwards of a million of verbs. If we multiply a million by the number of inflections which take place in the various modes and tenſes, the aſtoniſhing compaſs of verbal expreſſions in this language will appear.

THE GRAMMAR.

It is a principal excellence of the Welſh, that its grammar is more conciſe and regular, perhaps, than that of any other language. Its proper alphabet, preſerved in the bardic inſtitutes, is formed upon univerſal principles, and conſiſts of ſixteen radical letters, of which four are vowels, and the other twelve conſonants, arranged in order according to their connection with each other. Both theſe claſſes of letters have certain modifications of forms, which may be called ſecondary letters, to denote the ſounds, into which ſeveral of the radical powers are ſuſceptible of changing under their various combinations. But unfortunately, by writing the Welſh language in Roman characters, this unity of ſyſtem is deſtroyed, and many irregularities ariſe from the want of a ſufficient number of proper ſigns. A variety of methods, therefore, have been reſorted to at different periods, to repreſent powers for which no letters could be found in the adopted alphabet. With the inconveniency of a foreign alphabet we may ſtill boaſt of advantages; for, whatever ſigns are uſed, every letter retains one uniform and proper ſound, without the leaſt deviation; a knowledge of the alphabet alſo is all the inſtruction neceſſary towards reading the language; and the greateſt merit is, that the alphabet is our perfect ſtandard of pronunciation.

IS THE WELSH AN HARMONIOUS LANGUAGE?

This is a queſtion, which ſtrangers have habitually decided in the negative; adding likewiſe, that it is overloaded with conſonants. With a view to aſcertain the truth of this objection, I endeavoured to calculate the proportion of vowels and conſonants in various languages. The reſult, with regard to the Welſh, was, that upon an average, for one hundred conſonants it had the like number of vowels; in the Greek, the proportion was ninety five vowels for a hundred conſonants; then in order followed the Italian, Spaniſh, Latin, and French; afterwards the Engliſh; German and Dutch, nearly equal; but the greateſt diſparity appeared in the Dutch. In regard to the harmony of the Welſh tongue, a ſtranger to its orthography cannot judge from books; but if I were to ſelect ſuch phraſes as are written in characters familiar to him, it would be difficult to draw expreſſions equally ſmooth from other languages.

Examples:

Na ſoma vi
Nam ſoma
Paid a vy ſomi
Na ſoma monov
Na wna vy ſomi
} Do not diſappoint me.

Pam nas tali imi? Why doſt thou not pay to me?
Poni weli? Why doſt thou not ſee?
O daioni? Oh goodneſs!

Na ſonia. Do not mention.
Od ei yno. If thou wilt go there.
Cei ſelu. Thou ſhalt behold.

Ni ſeli vi
Nim ſeli
Ni ſeli monov
Ni wnei vy ſelu
} Thou wilt not behold me.

A ſelo. That ſhall behold.

Er à weli. For what thou ſhalt ſee.
Deua yma rai troion. Come here ſometimes.
Pan diriono hinon. When the weather ſhall become pleaſant.
" Pan gano ednan larian lais." When the bird of melodious note ſhall ſing.
Pan rano duw. When God diſtributes.
Ni rani mono. Thou wilt not diſtribute it.
Y dyn a elo. The man who ſhall go.
Pe delit yno. If thou wert to come there.
Os taranai. If it ſhould thunder.
Oni ſeli. Unleſs thou wilt behold.
" Car ni reto vry a rêd obry." The carriage that will not run up will run down.
Buaſai da itti. It had been well for thee.
Os ni rani dy olud. If thou wilt not diſtribute thy wealth.
O tarana. If it will thunder.
Na neidia arno. Do not jump upon it.
Synia y plantos yna ſy yn truanu. Conſider thoſe little children who are becoming wretched.

DIALECTS OF THE WELSH, PARTICULARLY THE GWENTIAN.

There are three principal dialects; the *Gwynedian*, prevailing in North Wales; the *Dyvedian*, in the weſtern parts of South Wales; and the *Gwentian*, ſpoken in the eaſtern parts of the ſame country, or rather Glamorganſhire and Monmouthſhire. We have many manuſcripts proving theſe dialects to have been the ſame upwards of ſix centuries ago as they now are, and confined to the ſame diſtricts; hence we may infer their exiſtence in the ſame ſtate for many ages.

I ſhall paſs over the other dialects of the Welſh, and confine my remarks to the *Gwentian*, which is uſed in the county under your diſcuſſion. The general character of this dialect is a majeſtic ſimplicity, the expreſſions being always full, and free from contractions. Some of the general differences between it and the *Gwynedian* are exhibited in the following examples:

Gwentian.	*Gwynedian.*	
Oc ei ben,	O'i ben	- Out of his head.
Izei ben,	I'w ben	- Into his head.
Dothoezynt,	Daethynt	- They had come.
Arnazynt,	Arnynt	- Upon them.

Gwentian.	*Gwynedian.*	
A orug,	A wnaeth	- That he did.
Yd oez,	Yr oez	- There was.
Maes,	Allan	- Out.

And the general uſe of *o* for *io* in verb and plural endings.

Tàno,	Tànio	- To fire.
Dynon,	Dynion	- Men.

The greater number of our old chronicles are written in the *Gwentian* dialect; and much of the poetry of the ancients bears the ſame character. There was a celebrated poet of Gwent, named CASNODYN, who flouriſhed in the commencement of the fourteenth century, and whoſe works may be deemed the laſt of the ancient claſſics of Siluria. I have ſelected the following ode, chiefly for its brevity, and accompanied it with a literal tranſlation; it is addreſſed to a lady called GWENLLIAN, the meaning of which name is, *One that is white as the torrent foam*; and this is neceſſary to be known, as the poet plays upon the epithet, by drawing from it moſt of his compariſons. This Ode is ſo extremely complicated and artful in its conſtruction, that it would be a fruitleſs attempt, I believe, to imitate it in any other language. Every line ends in EG; but they are all unaccented ſyllables except four, and conſequently have not the jingle of full rhyme; they are alſo overpowered by the accented concatenation of other ſounds, in different parts of the verſes, in ſuch a manner, that an incorrect ear might almoſt miſs their exiſtence in the compoſition.

AWDYL A GANT CASNODYN I WENLLIANT, *merç Cynan ab Mereduz ab Rhŷs ab Grufuz ab yr arglwyz Rhŷs: Gwraic ſyr Grufuz Llwyd ab Rhŷs ab Ednyved Vyçan.*

Aelaw iawn yw dawn gne gwawn gnawd-çweg,
Eiliw ewynvriw gwynwiw gwaneg,
Eiliais erod glôd, gloewdeg Wenlliant:
Eiliant dy voliant vîl eçwaneg.

AN ODE SUNG BY CASNODYN to GWENLIANT, *the daughter of Conan ſon of Meredud ſon of Rhys ſon of Grufud ſon of the lord Rhys: ſhe was the wife of ſir Grufud Lwyd ſon of Rhys ſon of Ednyved Vyçan.*

Tranſcendent in virtue, whoſe ſoft ſkin, of goſſamer delicacy, is of the hue of the purely white ſpraying foam of the wave, thy fame has been the ſubject of my lay, GWENLIANT ſprightly and fair; a thouſand more will ſing thy praiſe.

Elw

Flw dreiziaw, nim daw traw, trwy gyſteg,
Elwyz twy clodryz, dyz na deuzeg:
Ell cain galled rhéd ym reidreg obaith,
Oleuvaith hoewdaith, vraint ehedeg.

Though I anxiouſly ſeek the object of my wiſh, not a glance of the angel-preſence, high towering in renown, ſhall I have in a day nor in twelve: my craving hope like the gairiſh thiſtle down, privileged with wings floats in an airy courſe of wide extended light.

Arial bu gethal briw zial brêg:
Arwyz dieilwyz rwyz vo yn rhedeg
Ar hoewlun luz hun, hoen gwen-waneg maen,
Pan wiſg ton vrwyſgvlaen gaen am gareg.

Paſſion has been a ſting wounding to puniſh weakneſs: a token without fulfilment, lightly paſſes away on the ſleep-obſtructing form, ſo ſprightly, ſeeming as a white ſtream of the rock, when the impending ſurge throws a mantle over the ſtone.

Eirgall ziwáll, ball bwyll ogyweg,
Eirioed yn zïoed hoed gyhydreg:
Eur mâl a'm bu dâl dolur attreg vraw,
Yn llaw wyl andaw, gan ail Indeg.

Diſcreet of word and without a fault, ban ſhing the wavering ſentiment, I am ever without an aſſignation for the longed intercourſe: fine gold has been my recompence for the pain of the torment of delay, which my hands received with diffident wiſtfulneſs, from a ſecond INDEG *.

Eirian verç Cynan! cynran canreg
Eryr tymhyr gwyr; gweilç diſacſneg!
Arglwyz culwyz, rhwyz rwyv Groeg, rugylçwyrn:
Ellwng o heiyrn y teyrn têg!

Beauteous daughter of CONAN! diſpenſe the hundred gifts of the eagle of the land of men; of heroes free from Saxon ſpeech! a proſpering lord, like a liberal Grecian ſage, eloquent and energetic. —Releaſe from chains a comely chief!

Mau geiriau golau gwyl Wyndodeg;
Mi a wyr moli hîl rhi hael rêg:
Meithir y cludir clôd anreg tavawd;
Mor zidlawd vy ngwawd yn Ngwenhwyſeg.

I am maſter of the lucid words of modeſt GWYNEDIAN language; I am competent to celebrate the progeny of a prince of bounteous gift: far-diſtant will fame be wafted by the power of words; ſo unreſtrained my muſe in GWENTIAN ſong.

Main virain riain, gain Gymräeg;
Mwyn vorwyn hunzwyn. hoenzygyn gyſteg,
Myrz ai mawl, heb dawl dilezyv, çweg lwyſiaith,
Mawr zawn ganymdaith oeſdaith oſteg.

The ſlender and elegant damſel, from whoſe lips Welſh ſo purely flows; the kind ſleep-depriving maid, cauſing health-wearing anguiſh, a myriad will praiſe her without ceaſing in undebaſed words, ſoft and pure, which in recital ſhall greatly bleſs the courſe of life.

Menawd molawd gnawd gne ton waezgreg
Manaw, wiſg laſar, avar oveg,
Mynyç, lle llewyç lliw ehöeg ym,
Man ym dug gwelwlym ar rym redeg.

May then the panegyric lay make impreſſion on her, who is of the hue of the hoarſely-clamoring wave of MANAW, azure-mantled and of ſullen din, which often, to where the bright green ſmiles, wafts me on mighty courſe, gloomy and ſevere:

Myned er gweled gwened gwaneg
Manon wawr Arvon, govion goveg;
Maengaer, glôd beildaer glud balldeg mygyrvan:
Meingan dyn, erwan o Dinorweg!

Haſtening to view how glorious the path of the luminary of ARVON, cauſing anxieties to the mind; the queen of the ſtone-built caſtle, the far-famed ample place of reſort to a ſplendid throne: the ſlender and gentle maid of DINORWEG!

In conſequence of the overthrow of the Welſh government, by the conqueſt of Edward I. a great revolution took place in their poetry as well as in the mode of verſification; the following poem is a ſpecimen of a taſte which became prevalent with reſpect to both. It is extracted from the works of *David ab Gwilym*, page 524 †. The author, who is generally ſtiled the Welſh Ovid, flouriſhed about the middle of the fourteenth century, under the peculiar patronage of *Ivor the Generous*, an anceſtor of the *Tredegar* family ‡. The love of *David ab Gwilym* to a lady of the name of *Morvid* bears a ſimilitude to

* *Indeg*, the daughter of Avarwy, a celebrated beauty in the court of Arthur, recorded in the Triades as one of the three chaſte damſels of Britain.

† Printed in London in 1789; and edited jointly by Owen Jones and William Owen.

‡ See p. 64.

to the courtſhip between Petrarch and Laura. The Welſh bard compoſed 147 poems in praiſe of his fair miſtreſs; but, from the influence of wealth, ſhe was married by her friends to *Rhys Gwgan*, whom the poet nick-named *Bwa Baç*, or the jealous *Little Bow*, who afterwards ſerved with the Engliſh army in France, and was a captain in the battle of Creſſy. *David ab Gwilym* twice ſtole away the lady after her marriage, probably during the abſence of her huſband in France. For this conduct the poet was fined and impriſoned; and in each inſtance liberated by the gentlemen of *Gwent* and of the *Vale of Glamorgan*. He teſtified his gratitude for theſe favours in two beautiful poems: In one, he invokes the ſun to ſhed bleſſings over their country; and the other is the following:—

I yru yr Hâv i aneçr Morganwg.

Tydi yr Hâv, tâd y rhwys,
A'th goedvrig berth gauad-vrwys;
Tywyſog gleiniog y glyn,
Teſog, draw 'n defraw dyfryn!
Prâf yw dy vriſg i'n privfyrz,
Profwyd penial gwial gwyrz!
Panelog, pwy un eiliw,
Pwyntiwr dedwyz y gwyz gwiw!
Peraiſt deganau purion,
Percwe brwys, mewn parc a bron;
Pawr ar glawr y glaſlawr glwys:
Pêr ydyw ail paradwys!
Rhozaiſt vlodau a rhyzail,
Rheſau gwyç ar dyan dail.
Cawn nodiau cywion adar,
Can wanwyn, ar dwyn a dâr;
A gwrandarw'r gerz vangaw valç
Yn mywyll, lle rân mwyalç
Cawn genyd y byd o'i ben
A lluoz bawb yn llawen.
Clyw vi, Hâv! o çav i'm çwant
Yn genad ti'n d'ogoniant,
Hed droſov i dir Eſyllt,
O bervez gwlad Wynez wyllt:
Gyr oni's b'oç i'm goror,
Anwylav man, yn ael môr!
V'anerçion yn dirion dwg
Ugeinwaith i Vorganwg
Vy mendith, a llith y llês.
Deuganwaith i'r wlad gynhes!
Dymgais a'm gwlad o'i hamgylç;
Damred a çerzed ei çylç!
Gwlad dan gaead yn gywair;
Lle nôd gwyç, llawn yd a gwair;
Llynoz pyſg, gwinllanoz pêr;
A maendai, lle mae mwynder
Arglwyzi yn rhoi gwlezoez,

An Invocation for the Summer to greet Morganoc.

Thou Summer, parent of fertility, with thy fair branching woods of darkening exuberance; glittering ſovereign of the dale, with ſunſhine who doſt yonder wake the plain! Rife is thy path along our beaten roads, prophet of the future growth of the tender ſhoots! What one chequered with equal hues, thou happy rearer of the excelling woods! Thou haſt ſpread goodly gems in ſprightly woof of luxuriance over field and lawn; the herbage on the face of the purely verdant ground, ſweet like paradiſe the ſcene! Thou haſt given flowers and exuberant foliage in ſplendid wreaths on leafy arbours. We ſhall hear the chirpings of young birds, from the ſpring, among thickets and from the oak; and catch the proudly emulated lay in the glade, where blackbirds ſing. We ſhall have from thee the world before us, and the multitudes of creation full of joy.

Hear me, O Summer! if to my wiſh I obtain thee a meſſenger in thy glory, fly for my ſake to the land of Eſyllt *, from the midſt of Gwyned's barren land, onward go until thou art in my borders, deareſt ſpot, on the margin of the ſea.

My gratulations kindly bear twenty times to Morganoc; my bleſſing and the wiſh of good two hundred times to the genial country! O pervade my country on every ſide, and run thy courſe around its circuit! A country under ſhelter all complete; a place fair of fame, full of corn and paſture; ponds for fiſh; delicious vineyards; and ſtone-built manſions, where kindneſs reigns; chieftains giving feaſt, with high liberality of wine publickly ſerved. Ever will it be ſeen, that fair home of mine, ſpreading in groves with orchards †;

Haelioni

* *Tir Eſyllt*, *Bro Eſyllt*, and *Eſyllwg* are other names for Siluria, uſed by the poets; the common appellations now are *Gwlad Vorgan* and *Morganwg*.

† Orchards are now leſs frequent than formerly in Glamorgan; a great many remains of ancient ones are to be ſeen there in various places.

Haelioni cun, heilwin coez.
Ei gwelir vyth, dêg lawr vau,
Yn llwynaiz gan berllanau;
Llawn adar a gâr y gwyz
A dail a blodau dolyz;
Coed oſglog; caeau diſglair;
Wyth ryw yd, a thri o wair;
Perlawr parlas mewn glâs glôg,
Yn llanaiz a meillionog.
Yno mae gwyçion vonez
A dâl ym aur mâl a mêz;
Ac aml gôr y cerzorion,
A ganant â thant a thôn:
Ymborth, amred i'r gwledyz,
A darz o honi bob dyz;
A'i blîth, a' i gwenith ar goez,
Yn doraeth i'r holl diroez;
Morganwg, yn mrîg ynys,
A byrth bob man, llan a llys.
O'th gav, yr Hâv, i'th awr harz,
A'th geindwv, a'th egindarz;
Dy hinon yn dirion dwg
Aur-genad i Vorganwg.
Teſog vore, gwna'r lle'n llon;
Ag anerç y tai gwynion
Rho dwv, rho gynnhwv gwanwyn;
A çynnull dy wull i dwyn;
Tywyna'n valç ar galç gaer
Yn luglawn, yn oleuglaer;
Dod yno 'n y vro dy vriſg,
Yn wyrain bawr, yn irwiſg;
Ysgwyd lwyth o ber-frwythyz
Yn râd gwrs ar hyd ei gwyz;
Rho'th gnwd val frwd ar bob frith
A'r gweunyz, a'r tîr gwenith?
Gwiſg berllan, gwinllan, a garz,
A'th lawnder, a'th frwythlawndarz:
Gwaſgar hyd ei daiar dêg
Gu nodau dy gain adeg!
Ac y'nghyvnod dy vlodau,
A'r miwail vrîg tewzail tau,
Caſglav y rhôs o'r cloſyz;
Gwull dolau, a gemau gwyz;
Hoew veillion, dillynion llawr
A glwyſbert flur y glaſbawr
I'w rhoi'n gôv aur-enwog iôr,
Uvyz wyv, ar vez Ivor!

abounding with birds who love the woods, leaves and flowers of the dales; there the branching trees; the ſhining fields; eight ſorts of grain, and three of hay; a pleaſant ſward of perennial freſhneſs in a mantle of green, expanding and covered with trefoil. Splendid nobles are there, who reward me with fine gold and mead; and there the frequent bands of ſongſters who tune the ſtring and voice: Plenty diffuſive through the countries, daily pours from thence; and its dairy, and its wheat a public proviſion for the diſtant lands*; Morganoc, in the ſkirt of an iſle, feeds every place, the country and the court.

If I obtain thee, O Summer, in thy ſplendid hour, with thy fair growth and thy ſhooting gems; thy ſerenity pleaſantly bear, thou golden meſſenger, to Morganoc. With ſun-ſhine morn gladden thou the place; and greet the whitened houſes †; give growth, give the firſt fruits of the ſpring, and collect thy bloſſoms to the buſh; ſhine proudly on the wall of lime, full of light and gayly bright; leave there in the vale thy footſteps, in juicy herbage, in freſh attire; diffuſe a load of delicious fruits, in bounteous courſe among its woods; give thy crop like a ſtream over every lawn, the meadows and the land of wheat; clothe the orchard, the vineyard, and the garden, with thy abundance and thy teeming harveſt: Scatter over its fair ſoil the lovely marks of thy glorious courſe!

And, Oh! whilſt thy ſeaſon of flowers, and thy tender ſprays thick of leaves remain; I will pluck the roſes from the brakes; the flowerets of the meads, and gems of the woods; the vivid trefoils, beauties of the ground, and the gaily-ſmiling bloom of the verdant herbs, to be offered to the memory of a chief of faireſt fame: Humbly I will lay them on the grave of Ivor ‡!

* It is particularly famous for dairies and excellent wheat.

† The practice of whitewaſhing is to this day a diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic in Monmouthſhire and Glamorganſhire.

‡ From this pathetic tranſition, with which the poem cloſes, we learn that *Ivor Hael*, or Ivor the generous, was dead when it was compoſed, that is in 1346, the year of the battle of Creſſy. The practice of planting flowers and aromatic herbs on the graves of deceaſed friends is ſtill prevalent in Glamorganſhire. A border of ſtones is generally made round the grave, which is periodically whitewaſhed.

APPENDIX.—N° 2.

The ancient Kingdom of MORGANOC, SILURIA, *was of much greater Extent than the preſent County of the ſame Name, which the Engliſh call* Glamorganſhire; *but its Limits varied in different Periods; for there was a Time when the* Severn *formed its Boundary up to* Gloceſter; *however, the preſent Counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth may be conſidered as the common Extent of* SILURIA; *as the Reader will find illuſtrated in a curious piece of Hiſtory, extracted from the* MYVYRIAN ARCHÆOLOGY OF WALES, *vol.* 2 *, communicated by Mr. Owen.*

SAITH CANTREV MORGANUC: oc e CUTA CIVARUIT.

GUIBETED pobyl Breteinieid, paniu ſaith Cantrev eſſit e MORGANUC, eni argluitiaeth ai eſcobaeth.

E cintav iu e CANTREV BICHAN; er ail Cantrev iu GUIR a CHEDUELI ' tridet iu Gorenit; peduerit iu CANTREV PENUCHEN; pummed iu GUAENLLUC ac EDELIGION; e ueched cantrev iu GUENT-ıs-COED; e ſeithved cantrev iu GUENT-UCH-COED, ESTRAD EW, ac EUAS: er rai a eluid en dui laues Guent-uch-Coed: ac hevid ERGING ac ANERGING, mal i mae e cubil tervineu en *Llever Teilo*.

Pan etoet *Edgar* vrenin en *Lloegir*, a *Howel Da* vab *Cadell* deuiſauc *Dëubarth Cimru*: ſev oet heni e dridet dalaith, et oet i *Vorgan Hen*. oll VORGANUC en tangnevetus, hit pan geiſioet *Howel Da* i dreiſiau am ESTRAD EW ac EUAS.

Pan glebu *Edgar* heni, ev a devenoet ato *Howel Da*, a *Morgan Hen*. ac *Ewein* ei vab it ei lys ev in *Llundain*. Ac ev a orandeuis eſtir er emriſon a oet retunt. Sev a dervinuid, trui givreithlaun varn i lys, paniu *Howel Da* a dreiſioet en andledus, trui gamuet, *Morgan Hen*. ac *Ewein* ei vab; ac am heni divreiniau *Howel Da* a orugant o ESTRAD EW ac EUAS eu dragiuit.

THE SEVEN HUNDREDS OF MORGANOC: out of the BREVIARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

BE it known to the Britiſh people, that there are ſeven hundreds in MORGANOC, within its lordſhip and biſhoprick.

The firſt is the *Cantrev Bychan*; the ſecond is *Gower* and *Kedweli*; the third is *Gorenid*; the fourth is *Cantrev Penuchen*; the fifth is *Gwaenluc* and *Edeligion*; the ſixth hundred is *Gwent-under-Wood*; the ſeventh hundred is *Gwent-over-Wood*, *Eſtrad Ew* and *Euas*; the which were called the two ſkirts of *Gwent-over-Wood*; and likewiſe *Erging* and *Anerging*, according as the whole limits are laid down in the BOOK of TEILO.

When EDGAR was king in *England*, and HOWEL the Good, ſon of CADELL, was prince of the *ſouth diſtrict of Wales*, that is to ſay the third province, MORGAN the Aged had peaceable poſſeſſion of all *Morganoc*, until HOWEL the Good ſought to deprive him of *Eſtrad Ew* and *Euas*.

When EDGAR was informed of that affair, he ſummoned HOWEL the Good, and MORGAN the Aged with OWEN his ſon, to appear at his court in *London*. And he heard the nature of the diſpute, which ſubſiſted between them. Thereupon it was determined, by the lawful ſentence of the court, that HOWEL the Good had uſurped without a right and unjuſtly, from MORGAN the Aged and OWEN his ſon; and upon that account HOWEL the Good was deprived of the title to *Eſtrad Ew* and *Euas* for ever.

Ac

* The Archæology above referred to, is a work the two firſt volumes of which are now printing, and therefore not yet before the public. The firſt volume contains all that remains of the Welſh poetry, from the remoteſt period to the cloſe of the thirteenth century. The contents of the ſecond volume are ancient chronicles, tracts, and hiſtorical documents. Other volumes will follow, to include what is moſt important and worthy of preſervation in the old Welſh manuſcripts.

The few, to whom this work is eſtimable, owe its appearance to Mr. *Owen Jones*, citizen of London, who has expended ſeveral hundred pounds on this occaſion, who is generally known to his countrymen for ſimilar deeds of exalted patriotiſm; and by them called *Owen Myvyr*, from the name of his birth-place in North Wales. Thoſe whom he has aſſociated in the labour, wiſhed to affix the name of MYVYR to a publication, which future ages will conſider as the Welſh claſſics.

Ac en ol heni *Edgar* vrenin a ganiataoet ac a roes i *Ewein* vab *Morgant Hen*. ESTRAD Ew ac EUAS, o veun eſcobaeth *Llandav*, a chadarnâu heni trui weithredot ito ac iu etivedion vith, o getſenedigaeth a theſtiolaeth holl archeſcib, eſcib, ieirll, a baruniaid *Lloegir* a *Chimru*, dan roi eu melltith ir neb a divreiniai bluiv TEILO ac argluidiaeth MORGANUC or guledit hin: a hevid bendigedic vai ae caduai mal i delai en dragiuit.

Ar gueithred a wnaeth *Edgar* ar hin en treſordy LLANDAV i mae engcadu.

And afterwards king EDGAR granted and gave to OWEN theſon of MORGAN the Aged, *Eſtrad Ew* and *Euas*, within the biſhoprick of *Landav*; and confirming that by a deed to him and to his heirs for ever, through the concurrence and teſtimony of all the archbiſhops, biſhops, earls, and barons of *England* and *Wales*; laying their anathema on whoſoever ſhould deprive the ſee of TEILO and the lordſhip of MORGANOC of theſe countries; and alſo pronouncing as bleſſed thoſe who ſhould preſerve them in their true title for ever.

And the deed, which EDGAR executed of this matter, is preſerved in the treaſury of LANDAV.

APPENDIX.—N° 3.

Addition to Chapter 5.

SINCE my departure from Monmouthſhire, Mr. Evans viſited, at my requeſt, the chain of encampments which occupies the ſummit of the ridge commencing near Cat's aſh, and ſtretching to the Pencamawr, and which he ſuppoſes to have been the ſite of a Britiſh, or perhaps a Roman road, from the Julia Strata to Monmouth. This chain conſiſts of the camps of Coed y Caerau, Kemeys Folly, and Caerlicyn.

The encampment Coed y Caerau * is ſituated about two miles and a half from Caerleon, and half a mile from the commencement of the aſcent near Cat's aſh, on the brow of the eminence overlooking the Uſk. It conſiſts of three circular camps, adjoining to and connected with each other, two of which are ſurrounded with a double rampart.

About half a mile farther, at Kemeys Folly, is an oblong encampment, nearly of a rectangular ſhape, the weſtern ſide inclining to a curve; the road paſſing through the weſtern and eaſtern ſides, divides it nearly into two equal parts. Its form bears ſtrong marks of a Roman character, and the diſtance from Caerleon being only three miles, it might have been uſed for airing the troops, and for protecting the Roman road which ran beneath on the left bank of the Uſk.

A quarter of a mile from Kemeys Folly, was Caerlicyn, a circular encampment, with a tumulus on its northern ſide, and which might have been uſed as an exploratory camp, or for the purpoſe of guarding cattle. This faſtneſs is ſuppoſed to derive its name from Lycyn, a Britiſh chieftain, who poſted himſelf on this ſpot after the departure of the Romans.

The poſition of theſe camps is very ſtrong, and though conſiderably elevated, they are ſupplied with ſprings of water.

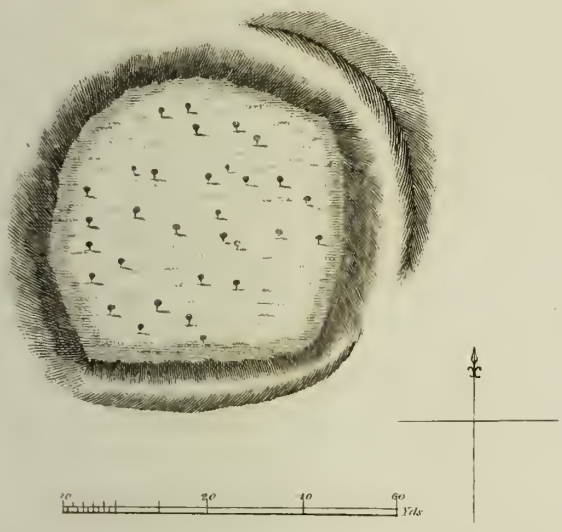
This chain of encampments was continued along the central parts of Monmouthſhire, from the Julia Strata to Monmouth. Striguil caſtle, which ſtands in the ſame line, was probably built on the ſite of an ancient poſt.

Nearly in the center of this chain is the Gaer Vawr, or Great Encampment, which is ſituated on the brow of an eminence above Wolves' Newton, between the Golden hill and the Devaudon, and is worthy of being viſited by the traveller for the beauty and extent of the proſpect. It is the largeſt encampment in Monmouthſhire, was probably the ſite of a Britiſh town, and from the extraordinary height of the vallum and depth of the entrenchments, may have been occupied and ſtrengthened by the Saxons during their predatory incurſions; and its central poſition between Caerleon, Caerwent, Chepſtow, Uſk, Raglan, and Trelech, rendered it a place of great importance.

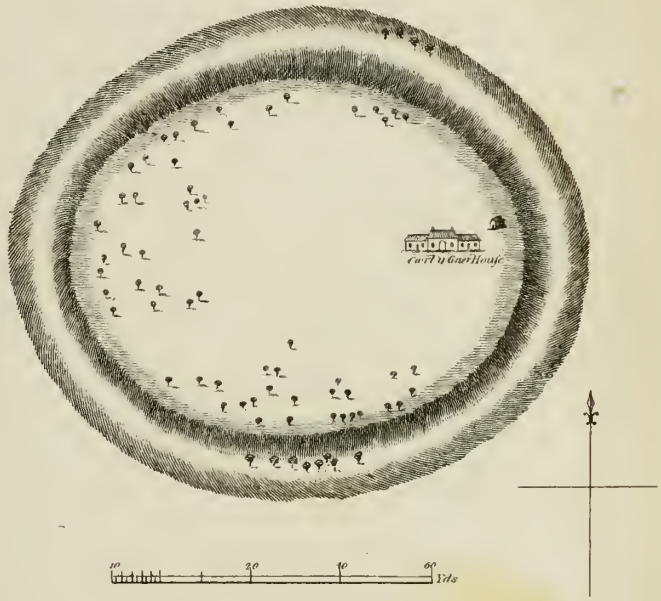
Not far from the Gaer Vawr, and near Wolves' Newton, is the ſmall circular encampment of Cwrt y Gaer, which exhibits remains of walls and ramparts of ſtone. Plans of theſe different encampments are here annexed.

* The Woods of the encampment.

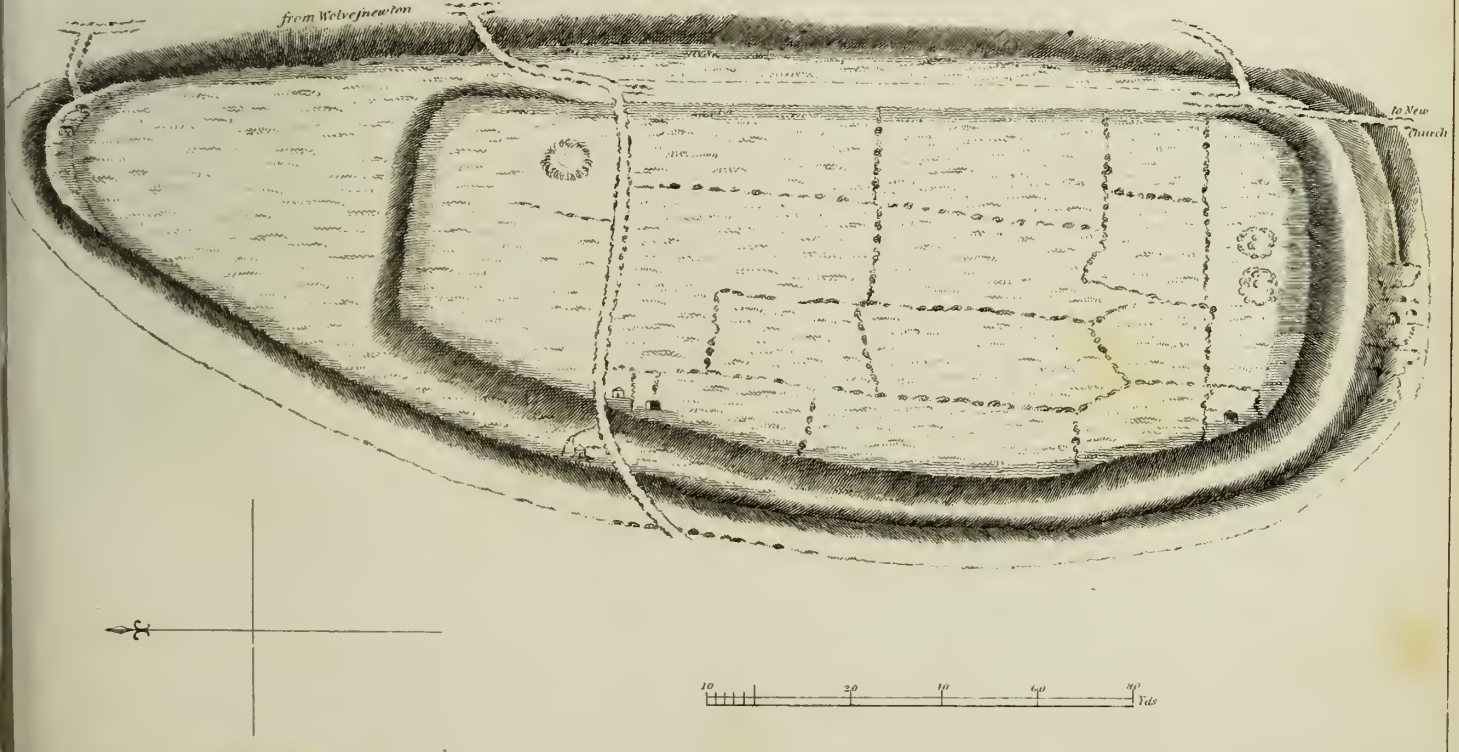
Encampment of Porthcaffeg



Encampment at Cwrt y Gaer near Wolvesnewton



Gaer Fawr Encampment



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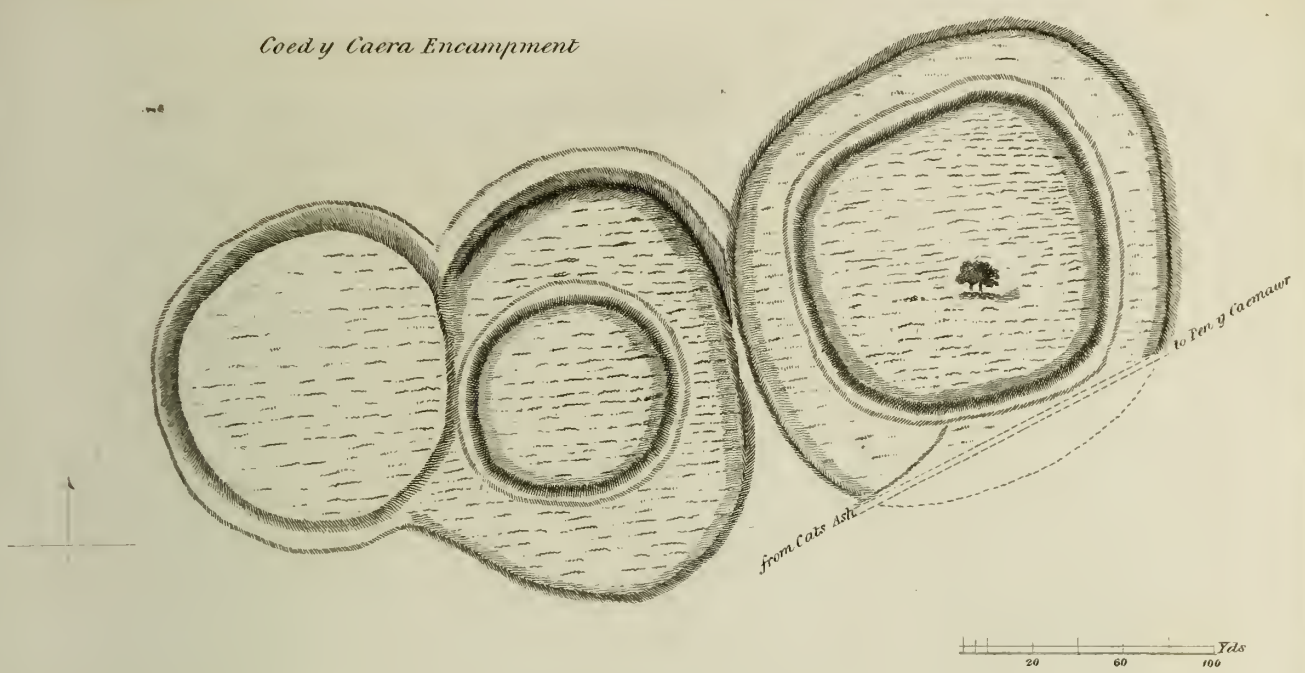
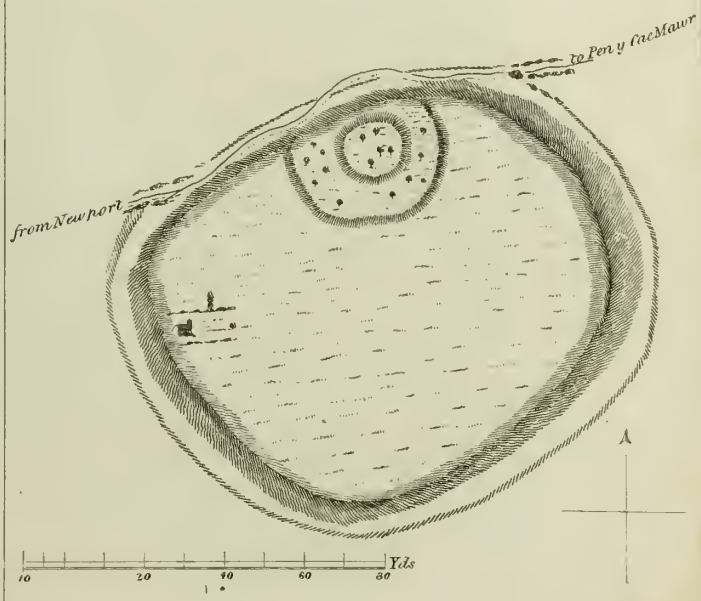
Coed y Caera Encampment



Kemeys Folly Encampment

Encampment at Caerlicyn



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APPENDIX.—N° 4.

Abſtract of the Charter of Newport in the County of Monmouth; (referred to in p. 46.) Amount of Tonnage on the Monmouthſhire Canal, for One Year, commencing September 9, 1798.

BY a charter granted on the 20th day of September, in the 21ſt year of the reign of king James 1, confirming former charters, grants, and preſcriptions, the Borough of Newport is incorporated by the name of "The mayor, aldermen, and burgeſſes of the Borough of Newport in the "County of Monmouth." And to have perpetual ſucceſſion by the ſame name, and thereby enabled and capable in the law to have, purchaſe, and poſſeſs lands, tenements, liberties, &c. to them and their ſucceſſors in fee, or for ever, or for years, &c. and to give, grant, demiſe, &c. and to plead and be impleaded, &c. as any other body corporate or politic may, and to have and uſe a common ſeal for negotiating the cauſes and buſineſs thereof, &c. To be governed by a mayor and twelve aldermen, who have power to make bye laws from time to time for the good order and government of the ſame; and to impoſe puniſhments and penalties, &c. by impriſonment or fines, &c. on offenders againſt the ſame. The mayor and aldermen, or the major part, of whom the mayor to be one, to aſſemble together on Monday next before Michaelmas yearly in the Guildhall, or any other convenient place within the borough, to name and return two of the aldermen to be preſented to the ſteward of the lord of the borough, who ſhall elect one of the two aldermen ſo returned to be mayor, and ſhall ſwear him into office accordingly. In caſe of the death of the mayor, the major part of the aldermen may return two other aldermen, to be in nomination of mayor in like manner. Aldermen dying, to be replaced by the mayor and major part of the aldermen at any meeting, out of the burgeſſes. Mayor or alderman, when duly apppointed as above, refuſing to ſerve or execute the office, to be fined in any ſum not exceeding ten pounds, and may be committed to the borough priſon, there to remain until payment. The mayor and aldermen to chuſe and appoint a recorder, who ſhall continue in office during life, unleſs, &c. and who ſhall by himſelf or his deputy be aſſiſting to the mayor and aldermen on all neceſſary occaſions, and who ſhall be ſworn to execute the office. The mayor, two ſenior aldermen, and ſteward, to be juſtices of the peace within the borough; who ſhall have power, or any two or more of them (of whom the mayor and ſteward ſhall be two) to hold and keep general ſeſſions of the peace for puniſhing offences committed within the borough, and to do and perform all other judicial acts relating to a ſeſſions of the peace. Any two of the ſaid juſtices, of whom the mayor or ſteward ſhall be one, may commit offenders for treaſon, murder, felony, or robbery, or ſuſpicion thereof, to Monmouth goal, to be tried at the aſſizes. The mayor ſhall appoint two bailiffs, &c. The mayor and aldermen exempt from ſerving on juries out of the borough, unleſs they have lands or tenements without the ſame to qualify them. No foreigner, unleſs a freeman, may ſell or expoſe to ſale within the borough any wares or merchandize, otherwiſe than in groſs, or other than cattle, and all neceſſaries for the victualling the ſaid borough, nor ſhall hold any ſhop, place or ſtation, nor uſe any myſtery, occupation, or art manual within the borough, without the ſpecial licence of the mayor and aldermen uner the common ſeal. Two fairs * to be held in every year, the one on Aſcenſion day,

* There is another fair held by preſcription on the 15th of Auguſt yearly; and a monthly tollfree market for horned cattle and pigs, held on the third Monday in every month, which latter was eſtabliſhed about 32 years ago.

The burgeſſes of Newport are alſo by ſeveral patents granted in former reigns, and confirmed in the 27th of Elizabeth, exempt from the payment of ſundry tolls and duties, viz. murage or wall toll, bridge toll, laſtage, ſtallage, pickage, tronage, or wool-weighing toll, kayage or wharfage, and terrage or tillage, and of all other cuſtoms and duties throughout the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, and the duchy of Aquitain, or elſewhere throughout her majeſty's dominions; (the duties upon wool, hides, fleeces or ſheep ſkins, and wines, only excepted.)

There is a ſpacious tract of wharf land within the borough, called the marſhes, belonging to the inhabiting burgeſſes and their widows, containing about 50 ſtatute acres, which they have enjoyed by preſcription for upwards of a century paſt; the hay whereof is divided between them according to cuſtom on Monday next before Midſummer in every year; and they have an unlimited right of grazing the lattermath with all manner of cattle, &c. from the 16th of Auguſt to Chriſtmas eve.

day, and the other on the feaſt of St. Leonard, or 6th of November, in ſuch convenient place within the borough as to the mayor and aldermen ſhall ſeem beſt; with a pye-powder court there to be held in time of the fairs, with all liberties, free cuſtoms, tolls, ſtallages, pickages, fines, amerciments, and all other profits, commodities, advantages, and emoluments to ſuch fairs, and pye-powder court belonging, &c.

Confirmation of Privileges of NEWPORT, *by Queen* ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH, by the grace of God of *England*, *France*, and *Ireland*, *queen*, defender of the faith, &c. to all before whom theſe *preſents* ſhall come health: we have examined letters patent of his majeſty *Henry* the Vth formerly king of England, our *progenitor*, bearing witneſs to this effect:—*Henry*, by the grace of God king of *England* and *France*, and ſovereign of *Ireland*, to all before whom theſe preſents ſhall come health; we have examined letters patent of his majeſty *Henry* (IVth) lately king of *England*, our father, to this effect:—*Henry*, by the grace of God king of *England* and *France*, and ſovereign of *Ireland*, to all before whom theſe preſents ſhall come health; we have examined letters patent of his majeſty *Richard* the IId after the conqueſt bearing witneſs to this effect:—*Richard* by the grace of God king of *England* and *France*, and ſovereign of *Ireland*, to all before whom theſe preſents ſhall come health; we have examined a chart of his majeſty *Edward*, late king of *England*, our great-grandfather, to this effect:—*Edward* by the grace of God king of *England*, ſovereign of *Ireland*, and duke of *Aquitain*, to the *archbiſhops*, *biſhops*, *abbots*, *priors*, *earls*, *barons*, *ſheriffs*, *judges*, ſuperintending *officers*, and to all *bailiffs*, and their officers, health:—Know ye that *we* of our ſpecial favour have *granted*, and by *this* our *chart* have confirmed to our beloved and faithful *Hugh le Deſpenſer* the younger, that *he* and his heirs, and their burgeſſes, and others the inhabitants of *Cardyf*, *Uſk*, *Caerlion*, *Newport*, *Conbrugge*, *Neeth*, and *Kenefeg* in *Wales*, of all their effects and goods, wares, as well merchandize as others, be for ever releaſed from *toll*, *wall-toll*, *bridge-toll*, *ware-carriage-toll*, *ſtall or ſtanding toll*, *piccage*, *toll for breaking up the ground to fix ſtall ſtandings or booths*, *tronage*, *wool-waighing toll*, *kayage*, *wharf toll*, *tirrage*, *lord's-land-tillage*, and alſo of all other *cuſtoms* and *duties* throughout our whole *kingdom* and our duchy of *Aquitain*, and our *ſovereignty* of *Ireland*, and elſewhere throughout our dominions, the duties upon *wool*, *hides*, *fleeces or ſheepſkins*, and *wines due* to us and our *heirs ſucceſſors* only excepted.

Wherefore it is our will, and we ſtrictly enact for *us* and our *heirs*, that the *ſame Hugh* and his heirs and their burgeſſes, and others the inhabitants of the aforeſaid towns of *Kerdyf*, *Uſk*, *Caerlion*, *Newport*, *Conbrugge*, *Neeth*, and *Kenefeg* in *Wales*, of all their effects and goods, as well merchandize as others, be for ever releaſed from *toll*, *wall-toll*, *bridge-toll*, *ware-carriage-toll*, *ſtall or ſtanding toll*, *toll for breaking up the ground to fix ſtalls*, *ſtandings or booths*, *wool-waighing-toll*, *wharf toll*, *lords land tillage*, and alſo of all other *cuſtoms* and *duties* throughout our whole kingdom, and our *duchy* of *Aquitain*, and our ſovereignty of *Ireland*, and elſewhere throughout our dominions, *duties* upon *wool*, *hides*, *fleeces*, or *ſheepſkins*, and *wines due* to us and our *heirs-ſucceſſors* only excepted as aforeſaid: *Given* with the atteſtation of the venerable *fathers*, W archbiſhop of *Cant. primate* of all England, J. biſhop of *Norwich*, J. biſhop of *Cheſter*, *Adomaro de Valencia*, *earl of Pembroke*, *Edmund* earl Aruudel, *John de Segrave* ſenior, *William Martyn*, *Richard Dommory* ſtewards of our houſehold, under our hand at Weſtminſter, the 4th day of March, and the ſeventeenth year of our reign. (that is Richard IId.) We therefore finding *all* and *ſingular* within the ſaid chart ratified and granted for us the heirs and our ſucceſſors, do to the extent of our power ratify and approve the ſame; and to the aforeſaid burgeſſes and others the inhabitants of the aforeſaid town of *Newport*, and their heirs and ſucceſſors, *we grant* and *confirm*, as the aforeſaid chart fully witneſſeth; and that they the ſame burgeſſes, and others the inhabitants of the aforeſaid town of *Newport*, ought to avail themſelves of, and enjoy the privileges and releaſes aforeſaid, in the ſame manner as we find their predeceſſors have been ever accuſtomed fully to uſe and enjoy the ſame privileges and releaſes, from the time of making the aforeſaid chart. In teſtimony whereof, we have cauſed theſe our letters patent to be made: Witneſs ourſelf at the abby of *Margam*, the 10th day of September, in the eighteenth year of our reign. (that is Henry IV.)

We therefore, finding the aforeſaid grants and confirmations, and alſo *all* and *ſingular* contained in the aforeſaid *chart* and *letters* ratified, and we receive and approve them granted for us and our heirs to the extent of our power, and we grant and confirm to our now beloved the burgeſſes and others the inhabitants of the aforeſaid town of *Newport*, their heirs and ſucceſſors, as the aforeſaid chart and letters

fully witneſs, and as they the ſame burgeſſes and others the inhabitants of the aforeſaid town of *Newport*, have accuſtomed always hitherto fully to uſe and enjoy thoſe privileges and releaſes from the time of making the aforeſaid *chart:* In teſtimony whereof, we have made theſe letters patent, witneſs ourſelf at Weſtminſter, the 25th day of November, in the ſecond year of our reign. (that is Henry V.) We therefore, with the advice and aſſent of the lords ſpiritual and temporal, aſſembled at our parliament holden at Weſtminſter, in the *firſt* year of our reign, do approve, ratify, and confirm the aforeſaid letters, touching thoſe privileges and releaſes, together with others the irrevoked contents of thoſe letters; and as the aforeſaid letters witneſs, that they the burgeſſes and others the inhabitants, ought to uſe and enjoy the aforeſaid privileges and releaſes, as their predeceſſors the burgeſſes and others the inhabitants of the ſaid town of *Newport* have hitherto always accuſtomed to fully uſe and enjoy the aforeſaid privileges and releaſes from the time of making the aforeſaid letters and ratifications: In teſtimony whereof, we have made theſe our letters patent, witneſs ourſelf at Weſtminſter, the 2d day of February in the ſecond year of our reign, by breviat from the privy ſeal, *Haſeley*. (that is Eliſabeth.)

We therefore finding the aforeſaid *chart* and letters ratified, do ratify and approve to the extent of our power the ſame grants for us, our heirs, and ſucceſſors, and we do grant and confirm to our beloved burgeſſes and others, the inhabitants of the aforeſaid town of Newport, their heirs and ſucceſſors, as the aforeſaid chart fully witneſſeth in itſelf: In teſtimony whereof, we have made theſe letters patent, witneſs ourſelf at Weſtminſter, the 4th day of November, in the twenty-ſeventh year of our reign. Powle.

The fine exacted, £1. 6s. 8d.
J. Bromley, Chancellor.

Executed by us { Matthew Carew and Henry Barkley. } Clerks.

AMOUNT of TONNAGE on the MONMOUTHSHIRE CANAL, for One Year,

Commencing September 9, 1798.

	Coal.	Pig Iron.	Bar Iron.	H. Blooms.	Timber.	Lime.	Sundries.
	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.
September Quarter	5,177 0	2,497 10	23 0	135 10	82 1	114 15	354 0
December - -	7,399 0	2,843 10	- -	145 0	114 0	35 10	812 5
March - - -	7,013 0	2,821 15	4 0	132 0	50 0	- -	354 5
June - - - -	8,502 0	2,996 10	5 10	161 0	42 5	3 0	227 10
	28,091 0	11,159 5	32 10	573 10	288 6	153 5	1,748 0

continued below.

CONTINUED.

	Ale & Porter.	Stones.	Caſtings.	Bark.	Iron Ore.	Slate.	Manure.
	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.	Tons. Cwt.
September Quarter	11 10	4,777 0	45 10	26 10	237 10	24 15	94 10
December - -	9 0	1,928 15	38 0	0 5	196 6	43 5	55 0
March - - -	- -	1,130 10	45 10	- -	643 0	- -	48 0
June - - -	- -	4,517 0	7 0	36 0	879 0	13 10	28 0
	20 10	12,353 5	136 0	62 15	1,955 16	81 10	225 10

APPENDIX.—N°. 5.

Conſtitution of the Court of Sewers, in the Level of Wentloog; referred to Chapter 9. Communicated by the Rev. Mr. Evans.

THE juſtices or commiſſioners commonly ſo called, are nominated by the lord lieutenant of the county, and appointed and confirmed by the king, under the great ſeal, and by the duchy of Lancaſter, under the ſeal of that duchy; ſo that in this inſtance, relative to the levels in Monmouthſhire, there are duplicate commiſſions. The term of the commiſſion is limited to ten years, and ſometimes to *one* more, being a year of grace. In caſe of emergency or public diſturbance, it is conceived that the lord lieutenant may apply for a new commiſſion if requiſite.

The authority of this court is controuled only by the power of the court of king's bench, in caſe of an appeal.

The court of ſewers at their meeting, after the iſſuing and receipt of the commiſſion, ſwear themſelves into office, in purſuance of a mandate to one of them, commiſſioned to ſwear himſelf, by the aſſiſtance of the clerk of the ſewers, whoſe office is deemed very reſpectable. They firſt appoint their own clerk, who holds his office generally for life, or quam diu bene ſe geſſerit, and is recorder of the court. They appoint alſo two public expenditors; one for the level of *Wentloog*, the other for the two *diviſions of Caldecot*.

The office of the expenditors is to ſee that the walls are kept in good repair, and that the Rheens, or channels which convey the rain waters from the hills and levels, be clear of all obſtructions; and they are in this independent of the *ſurveyors* and *jurors*. To them are iſſued all orders from the court, relative to the taxes raiſed upon the levels, towards maintaining the walls.

The expence is defrayed in part by lands, which have been ſurrendered to the court by the original poſſeſſors, becauſe their quota, towards keeping in repair the portion of ſea wall originally appointed, exceeded the value of that property. The court is obliged to accept of ſuch ſurrenders, unleſs there be an *unity of poſſeſſion*; that is, when the proprietors ſo diſtreſſed have lands elſewhere, which are not liable to a level tax. In that caſe the court will not accept the ſurrender of land ſo conditioned, but can and does compel the proprietor, who has unity of poſſeſſion, to maintain his ſhare of ſea wall.

The two expenditors having received in court the order relative to the ſum aſſeſſed upon every acre, ſend their mandate to the collectors of the land tax, who deliver the monies contributed by virtue of ſuch mandate to the expenditors.

The aſſeſſment varies from two pence to ſix pence per acre; and the produce, after paying the expences of the ſeſſion, or meeting of the court, and the ſalaries of the expenditors and clerk of the ſewers, is applied to the maintenance of the ſea walls. The accounts of the expenditors are annually audited by the court.

The next officers in order are the ſurveyors of the levels; of whom there is one in each pariſh; their buſineſs is to preſent to the court defects and omiſſions, which were overlooked or not noticed by the jurors, to repair thoſe defects and omiſſions, and bring in their accounts to the court. The *jurors* are about fifteen or more in Wentloog, three or four in every pariſh, and the ſame number, or thereabout, in each of the two diviſions of Caldecot. Their office is to examine, a fortnight before the ſpring ſeſſion, all the ſea walls and rheens, to take cognizance of the defects and obſtructions, and to preſent the ſame by their foreman to the court, in writing, which is read over by the clerk or his deputy in their preſence, and minutely canvaſſed by the commiſſioners. If there be any error in their preſentment, they have a right to retire and amend it, again to enter the court, and deliver it to the clerk, when the preſentment is read, and the jurors for each diviſion and level diſmiſſed in their turn.

In the autumn court, the accounts of the expenditors and ſurveyors are audited, and alſo the accounts of particular or private expenditors, appointed by the court to ſupply the defects of individuals who neglect the work, and are obliged to pay thoſe inferior expenditors a poundage of ten per cent. for the money by them advanced.

When

In caſe of any ſudden accident between the ſpring and autumn ſeſſion, a ſingle commiſſioner, or more, as the emergency requires, may appriſe the clerk of ſewers to cite the commiſſioners to examine the defects upon the ſpot, which is termed *to have a view*. The commiſſioners immediately iſſue their orders for repair, as ſoon as poſſible; and even during the ſeſſion, ſhould it appear that any difficulty aroſe with regard to the adjuſting of old defects, or the making of new rheens, or altering any thing which concerns the levels at large, or individuals in particular, any individual may, with the acquieſcence of the court, demand a view, and the caſe in queſtion is finally determined by the commiſſioners attending.

N° 6.—*Addition to Chapter* 10, *on Caerleon*; *referred to in p.* 80.

Etymology of Caerleon, in a Note from Mr. Owen.

AN Article reſpecting the derivation of the name of Caerlleon, will, I preſume, neceſſarily occur in your *Account of Monmouthſhire*, which it is not likely that you will refer to my conſideration, becauſe you may have judged it fully eſtabliſhed already, from the unanimous conſent of all writers who have touched upon the ſubject. But, ſir, I beg leave to ſubmit to your opinion, whether this point would have been thus ſettled, if thoſe who drew ſuch a concluſion, had been poſſeſſed of all the evidence, which ſhould reſult from the facts hereafter noticed?

It is ſtated, that this *Caerlleon upon the Uſke*, as alſo the *Caerlleon upon the Dee* (or Cheſter) are ſo called, from their being the *ſtations of Roman* Legions; thus implying that Lleon is the Welſh modification, or corruption of the term Legion. If this derivation were well conſidered, it would appear rather improbable, even if there were no other grounds; for the places ſo called, had names, and I would preſume, thoſe identical names here mentioned; and were alſo places of ſtrength, pointed out by the eligibility of ſituation, before the Roman legions ever made their appearance: and beſides, why do we not find other places in the iſland receiving their appellations from a ſimilar cauſe?

The facts which I am about to ſtate in evidence are theſe: In the firſt place, the Welſh term uſed for a *Legion* is *Lleng*, a very common word in all the writings of the different ages; therefore, if the foregoing derivation were true, the name of the town would have been *Caer Lleng*; and which a critic, nay every body who knows the Welſh language, can point out to be very different in ſtructure from *Caer Lleon*, a word of three ſyllables. The next fact is, that the proper name of the town is *Caer Lliion*, and not *Caer Lleon*; and it is always found ſo in our moſt ancient manuſcripts. The meaning of *Caer* is already well known to be, any incloſure of defence, or fortification, and in a ſecondary ſenſe, a city.

I ſhall proceed to ſtate, as a third fact, the import of *Lliion* to be, ſtreams, torrents, or floodings, a term often uſed, in an aggregate ſenſe, for any great body of water; and it is derived from *Lli*, which is the ſingular form of the word, implying a ſtream or flood, in its popular acceptation. The laſt fact to be adduced is, the great propriety of the name for the ſituation of the town on the banks of the river Uſk; and probably the ſituation is, or was formerly on the extremity of the range of the tides, thus rendering the plural form of the appellation ſtill more deſcriptive, than if it were only (as it frequently has been uſed) on account of the vicinity of the river Uſk to the town. As to the laſt-mentioned circumſtance you are fully enabled to judge for yourſelf, which renders it needleſs for any remarks of mine; and as I have laid down the leading points, which make me diſſent from the commonly received etymology of *Caerlleon*, I commit them in this brief way to your judgment, to draw ſuch an inference as may ſeem conſiſtent with reaſon.

N° 7.—*Diſſertation on the Inſcription engraven on a Braſs Plate in the Church of Uſk, (referred to in p.* 133.*) containing Explanations by Dr. Wootton, the Rev. Mr. Evans, Vicar of St. Woolos, and a Letter on the ſame Subject from Mr. Owen.*

DR. WOOTTON was the firſt perſon who gave an explanation of this inſcription, which he conſidered as a mixture of Welſh and Latin, and an epitaph on a profeſſor of aſtronomy, and chief of a college of two hundred philoſophers, eſtabliſhed at Caerleon before the arrival of the Saxons. He thus read, explained, and tranſlated it:

Nole clodde yr Ethrod Caerlleon Advocad
Lawnhaëd Lundain a Barnwr Bedd
Breint aput Ty'n ev Aro, Ty Hauale
Selif Synwoeper * Suma Seadem Uſk Avall †
Kylche Dec & Kymmyde Doctor Kymmen, Leua loer i lawn O leue.

" Noli effodere Profeſſorem (Scientiarum) Caerlegionenſem, Advocatum digniſſimum Londinenſem, " & Judicem Sacri Privilegii (vel Cancellarium) apud Fanum Aaronis, & Fanum Julii (potius for- " fan Avaloniae) Solomonem Aſtrologum, Sunimum vel Præpoſitum Civitatis Uſk, tenentis circiter " decem Commotes, Lunam lucidam in plenilunio lucentem."

This reading and explanation were adopted in the *Drych y Priv Oeſodd,* or Mirror of the Primitive Ages, by the Rev. Theophilus Evans, rector of Langammarch, in the county of Brecon, who was inferior to no perſon of his time in the knowledge of the Welſh tongue. The Rev. William Harris, prebendary of Landaff, in his obſervations on the Julia Strata, inſerted in the ſecond volume of the Archæologia, adopted the ſame explanation, although he gave a fac ſimile of the incription, which proved the fallacy of the interpretation, for the word which Wootton and Evans had read Caerlleon appears to be ỳarlleỳn. Mr. Gough likewiſe, in his valuable edition of Camden, has on theſe reſpectable authorities inſerted the ſame reading, accompanied with the ſame fac ſimile.

Having diſcovered, on comparing this fac ſimile with the inſcription, that the form of the letters was not exactly repreſented, I procured another, by means of a ſlip of paper laid on the plate, and rubbed with black lead, an engraving of which is here annexed. Mr. Evans at my requeſt examined the inſcription, was of opinion that it was wholly Welſh, and favoured me with the following explanation:

" The Inſcription on the Braſs Plate in the Church of Uſk, as it is engraved, and to be read letter for letter.

Nole clode yr ethrode yar lleyn
Advocade llawnhade llundeyn
A barnon rhede breynta pentræ
ty nevaro ty havalie
Seliff ſunnoeir ſinn
a ſe adam uſke eval kuſke
Deke kummode doctor kymmen
lle va loe i llawn oleue.

" Here follows the explanation in Welſh, as it would have been written after the time of the dubious date of the inſcription, before our orthography received a new turn in the time of Queen Eliſabeth by the tranſlators of our Bible into Welſh:

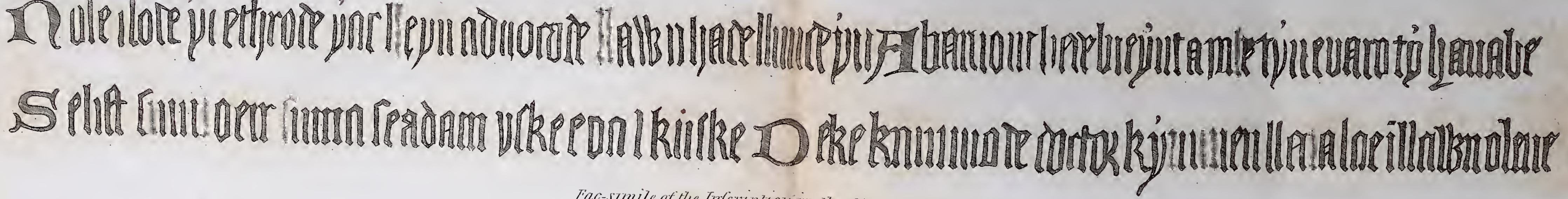
1 Ynole cloddai yr ethrodjar lleyn,
2 Advocâd llawnhâd llundeyn.
3 A baruon ar hŷd breintiau prentrau
4 Ty' Nevaro ty Havalie;
5 Selif ſynwyr ſenn
6 Y ſydd oddi am Uſke, y vel cyſcai
7 Deg cymmod, doctor cymmen,
8 lle bo lloe ei llawn o leuen.

This

* " Synwoepr, or Synwybr, a word compounded of Syniau and Wybyr, i. e. Cœlos contemplari. The South Britons and Corniſh pronounced it Eobr or Wybr. See Llwyd."

† " Gaval i. e. Services due from tenants to their lords, in the old Britiſh called Kylche, which name they retain at St. David's to this day."

Toface Appendix N°7. P.418.



Fac-simile of the Inscription in the Church of Usk

"This tranſlation is extremely cloſe, and almoſt the original idiom, from which in this inſtance there ſhould be no deviation.

1 In that place was buried the teacher, Lord, learned.
2 Advocate of full competency of London,
3 and Baron of the liberties of the villages
4 of Ty' Nevaro ty Havalie;
5 a Solomon of diſcreet counſel
6 around Uſk, ſo far as ſleep
7 ten commots, an eloquent doctor
8 where the moon has her full luſtres."

(Letter from Mr. Owen, containing another Explanation.)

"SIR,

"I BEG leave to return the *fac-ſimile* of the inſcription in the church of Uſk, which you were pleaſed to ſend to me, with my attempt to explain it.

"It may be proper to obſerve in the firſt place, that copies of the inſcription, leſs faithful than this, are already in the hands of the public, accompanied with ſuch gueſſes, with reſpect to the meaning, as the writers were enabled to procure.

"You will perceive, ſir, in the ſequel, that my explanation of the Uſk inſcription differs greatly from that given by Dr. Wootton, and I regret that it is equally at variance with that furniſhed by the Rev. Mr. Evans of Caerau; ſuch a diverſity alone is ſufficient to ſhew the difficulty of aſcertaining the true meaning of this piece of antiquity. There is however one point, admitting of no diſpute, which is, that this mutilated copy affords ſufficient evidence to prove that the original inſcription was in the *Welſh* tongue, as appears from ſeveral words correctly written, agreeably to a particular orthography in uſe about the period when it ſeems to have been executed. There is equal certainty, I think, that it contains eight lines of poetry, each couplet beginning with the large initial letters.

"You did me the favour of ſhewing a communication from a correſpondent, * who reports, that the original inſcription was on a ſtone, which was ſent to London; and the preſent one on braſs is a *copy*, executed there, and ſent by the deſire of parties concerned, to be put up in the church inſtead of the other. Mr. Harris likewiſe affirms, that this was a copy of a more ancient inſcription. Independently of thoſe accounts, and indeed before I had heard of them, I perceived, as I thought, indiſputable marks that the preſent inſcription was executed by a ſtranger to the language, which it is not likely would have been the caſe in the firſt inſtance; and, if it had been entruſted then to ſuch a perſon, when what was meant to be recorded was known to thoſe concerned, a performance ſo incorrect would not have been ſuffered to be put up; but the miſtakes in copying an old inſcription defaced by time, no one could well point out. I might add further, had any man acquainted with the language been the engraver, he would have executed it according to ſome ſtile of orthography, which would be legible to me, as well as the ſeveral thouſand pieces written about the period when it was done, and which I have been obliged to peruſe, in collecting materials for the Welſh dictionary, now nearly completed, after fifteen years of cloſe application.

"I ſhall here exhibit the inſcription as it ſtands on the plate, pointing out ſuch words as are correctly written, according to a known ſyſtem of Welſh orthography, by capital letters, and by italics ſuch words as are tolerably explicit, thus:

Nole clode YR ethrode YAR LLEYN *aduocade* LLAWN *hade* LLUNDEYN
A barnour bede BREYNT a pile ty nevaro ty hauabe
Seliff ſun o eir ſinn a ſeadam yſke eval kuſke
Deke *kummode doctor* KYMMEN llena loe i LLAWN oleue.

"Here we find eight words written correctly, according to the dialect of *Gwent* in the fifteenth century; it is therefore fair to preſume, that the whole of the original inſcription was equally exact. The diviſions between ſome of the words are clear; but in other inſtances they appear confuſed, which is a conſiderable ſource of difficulty, when accompanied by greater ambiguities. In old writings, the *m*, *n*, *u*, *w*, *in*, *iu*, *ni*, *ui*, *iw*, *vi*, *nn*, *nu*, *un*, *im*, *mi*, and the like, have not a marked difference, by which they can be defined in many caſes, otherwiſe than by the meaning of the text; but when ſuch other letters

* The Rev. Mr. Jones of the Pill.

letters as accompany them are clearly made out, there ſeldom ariſes any difficulty in diſcriminating what they ſhould be alſo in reading Welſh; a ſtranger to the language, however, would be liable to commit many errors in copying, by confounding moſt of the ſquare letters, and this ſeems to have been the caſe with reſpect to the plate under conſideration.

" From the appearance of the inſcription, as above exemplified, you are enabled, ſir, to judge, what parts of it are to be rectified, or filled up by the imagination; and you will likewiſe ceaſe to wonder at the difference between former attempts, my interpretation, and the explanation given by the reverend Mr. *Evans* of Caerau, which you were pleaſed, by his permiſſion, to ſend for my peruſal. To this gentleman's general erudition, and his particular acquaintance with Welſh literature, a large circle of his countrymen bears honourable teſtimony; and I beg leave to take this opportunity of giving my aſſent to ſuch a ſentiment, and to applaud the patriotic bias of his taſte and reſearches.

" I now come to the difficult part of my taſk, the reſtoring of the Uſk inſcription to its true reading. In ſo doing, I ſhall be guided, in the firſt place, by the peculiar orthography of the Gwentian dialect, which from the proofs already mentioned, ſhould be particularly attended to.

" The moſt popular metre in uſe about the time of the writing, is, in the next place, a guide to be followed with conſiderable reliance; but at the ſame time ſelecting that, to which the words will beſt apply in their preſent form, and with the ſlighteſt alterations. The one fixed upon to anſwer ſuch intention is, the CYHYDEZ WASTAD, or the *even metricity*, thus defined in the Bardic Inſtitutes: " the " characteriſtics of the even metricity are, a verſe of eight ſyllables, and the length of the ſtanza to be " from four to ſixteen verſes, poſſeſſing the general principle of the canons. This metre is extremely " free, and aſſumes, better than any other, the rhythmical harmony of the lines, and the verſes flow " with regular accent. And it is a moſt ſuitable metre in compoſitions of love and elegy; and is more " univerſally uſed than any other, except the ſmooth metricity in compound metres." Having traced out the plan, which appears to me moſt rational, I accordingly give the following as a probable reading of the inſcription:

" Nota clod yr ethrod yar lleyn *
Advo cud † llawn hwde llundeyn
A barnwni bed breynt ap llyd ‡
Yn e varn a fu henefyd §
Selyf ſynn o eir hwn a fu
A daiar wyſk ei wal kyſku
Dewr kymmode doeth a chymmen ‖
Llen a lluc i llawn oleuen'

" The meaning of which is:

Mark this object of fame, to the diſgrace of the blade ¶:
were he not covered London would be in difficulty.
Then let us conſecrate the grave of Braint ** ſon of Llydd ††,
who in judgement was an elder ††:
Solomon, profound of word, was he;
and the ſod of Iſca his bed of ſleep!
Ardently he would reconcile the eloquent, and the wiſe ‡‡;
the clergy and the laity would be fully illumined."

* Another reading: *Neut clâd yr athro dayar lleyn!* Ah, is not the grave of the great teacher the ſod of the vale!

† Or, *Advo câd*, were there a battle again.

‡ Or, *A bardoni beird breynt ay lles*, and the lore of the bards of privilege and their joy.

§ Or, *Yn ei varw ſy en baſles*, in his death is become their misfortune.

‖ Or, *Teg y kymmod* doctor *kymmen*, fairly the eloquent doctor reconciled.

A free reading, according to theſe notes, would be—Ah, behold the grave of the great teacher is the ſod of the vale! When a battle took place London felt embarraſſed; and the ſong of the bards of ancient lore and their joy, all vaniſh through his death: He who was like Solomon, profound of word, on Iſca's banks his couch of ſleep! Fairly the eloquent doctor reconciled diſputes: Clergy and laity were fully enlightened by him.

¶ The original word for this is *Llain*, which ſignifies any thing ſtretched out flatly; a blade; alſo a flat ſlang of land; a vale.

** The meaning of this word is *privilege*; but as it has been uſed for a proper name of men, I have taken it in that ſenſe, otherwiſe no name occurs as the object of the inſcription.

†† Theſe parts of the original are ſo obſcured, that it may be made any thing elſe of the ſame length.

‡‡ I have preſerved an ambiguous form, like the original, in this line; for if it were written and pointed;—Ardently he would reconcile, the eloquent and the wiſe; the epithets eloquent and wiſe, might be applied to him who is deſcribed as the reconciler.

N° 8.—*A true Coppie of an antient memorable Treatiſe of Record touchinge the Progenie & Deſcent of the honorable Name & Family of the Herberts, by Commiſſion from E. 4. An° Dom. 1460;—referred to in p. 141.*

WHEREAS hyt pleaſyd the Mageſtye of God to rayſe & to exaulte unto y^s Kyngdome of England our dread Sofferaigne Lord by ye Grace of God Edward y^e ſowerth of that name after ye Conqweſt by rightfull tytell and inherytance to ye Crowne. Soe hyt pleaſyd him the ſayd Kynge in like ways to rayſe to awthorytyes caullinges & dygnytyes ſoch chyefeſt men as weyre partakers of his Trowbells & warrys againſt his aduerſaryes. And amongyſt oders that he exawltyd he creatyd William Hebert (who was before Lord of Ragland) Earl of Pembroke & honowryd hym & made hym Knyght of the moſt nobyll order of ye Gartyer, after wch creatyon the Kynge his Mageſtye commandyd the ſaid Earl & S^r. Richard Herbert hys Broder to take theyr ſyrnamys after theyr fyrſt Progenytor Herbert Fitzroy & to foregoe the Bryttiſh order & manner whoſe vſage ys to caulle euery man by hys fader grandfader & Greate grandfader hys name. And for thys cauſe the Herawldry of England diſputyd amongyſt theymſelfys towchinge the pedegree & ſtocke of the ſayd Earl & Knyght & could not agree uppon the Trowth theyreof. And theyreof yt pleaſyd the ſayd Kynge hys Mageſty under hys Mageſtye hys ſeale & wrytyng of Comyſſion dyrected vnto mee Jenan y^e ſonne of Rytherch y^e ſonne of Jenan Lloyd of the Countye of Cardigan Eſq^r togedyr with the ltre of y^e ſayd Honowrabell Earle giuinge me Awthorytye by vyrtew of the ſayd comyſſion to cyte & caulle before me into the Caſtle of Pembroke the fowre cheyffeſt men of ſkyll within the Prouynce of Sowth Wallys whoſe names are theyſe vizt. Howell the ſonne of Dauid the ſonne of Jenan the ſonne of Rys. 2 Howell Swrdwall. 3 Jenan Deulwyn. 4 Jenan Brecheva. And ſo by vynformye conſent by ye authorytye of the ſayd Comyſſyon & by ye commandment gyuen vs for to ſend vnto the Kyng his Mageſtye the trewe pedegree ſtock & lynadge of y^e ſaid Earle & Knight wee aſſemblyd ourſelues aulle fiue togeyder with many oder learnyd men prſſent at the Caſtell of Pembroke this day being the 12 daye of ye moneth of Auguſt in the yeare of Lord God 1460. And after long conſultation by vnyuerſaulle conſent & aſſent & beyng lead by the awthoryte & warrant of the Bookys of old Doctours, anncyent wrytyngs, Records of Cowrts, Barons Hyſtoryes, & Warrys of Prynces, Bookys of Remembrans founde in the anncyent Abbeye of Strata Florida the Booke of Pedegrees of Howell Moythey of Caſtell Odwyn Eſq. the Rowls of Morgan Abbot & many ſoche oder Bookys & warrantes of awthorytye And by the Awthorytie of our owne arte & ſyence Haue wrytten this p ſent Treatyſe wch wee ſend togeyder wth ye Pedegree of the ſayd Honowrabell Earle & Knyght vnto ye Kynge hys Mageſtye in fowre ſeuerall languadges vitz^t. in latyne Bryttiſh French & Engliſh, Eache Coppye agreeing word for word. And ſoe wee moſt humbly take our leauys die et loco predicto.]

The Pedegree is thus.

The ſaid honowrabell Earle ys namy'd William Herbert a nobell Knyght y^e ſonne of William the ſonne of Thomas the ſonne of Gwilym the ſonne of Jenkyn the ſonne of Adam the ſonne of Reignold the ſonne of Peter the ſonne of Herbert the ſonne of Herbert a Nobell Lord dyſcendyd of the Royall Blood of ye Crowne of England: for he was naturall ſonne to King Henry the fyrſt ſonne to William ye Conqueror which Herbert had his habytation in S^t. Michaell hys Caſtell in ye forreſt of Danys And Peter ſonne of the ſayd Herbert Fitz Herbert had by hys Mother beyng ye Dawghter of Milo Fitz Walter giuen vnto hym the Lordſhip of Betſley & he marryed the dawghter of Blethyn Broadſpeare by whoſe bodye a ſonne namyd Reignold Lord of Llanllowel who married Margaret the Dawghter of Sir. John Walſhe K^t. by whom he had yſſewe Addam Lord of Llanllowel y^t marr Xtian Dawghter and Heyre to Gwaryn Ddu (or the black) Lord of Llandeylo by whoſe body he had

yſſewe two ſonnes vit^z S^r. Thomas Adam K^t. and Jenkyn Adam Eſq Lord of Wrenddu wch Jenkyn marryed Wenllan daughter to S^r. Aron ap Bledry K^t. & by her had a ſonne namyd Gwylym Lord of Wernddu in Gwentland wch Gwylm marryed Wenllian daughter to Howell Vaughan ſonne to Howell ſonne to Jerwerth deſcended of the Kyngs of Gwent by whom he had yſſewe fowre ſonnes vizt. John Dauid Howell and Thomas wch Thomas ſonne of Gwilym of Perthhir Eſq married Maud daughter and heyres of S^r. John Morley Knight & by her had yſſewe fowre ſonnes vit^z Howell Philip Jenan & Sr William Thomas K^t. & fiue Daughters whereof one was married to Gwylym Dauid of Rhiwpperrey Eſq the ſecond to Phillip Riccard of Tyleglas the third to Gwnter of S^t. Silin by Vſke & the oder two daughters Dyed younge And the ſayd S^r. Willyam Thomas Knight married Gwladys daughter to S^r. Dauid Gam K^t. ſonne to Llewelyn Sonne to Howell Vaughan Sonne to HOWELL Sonne to GWION SAYS Sonne to TRAHERNE Sonne to GWYON Sonne to BLETHEYN Sonne to MAYNYRCH Lord of Brecknock which ſaid S^r. WILLIAM THOMAS by the foreſayd GWLADYS had yſſewe the foreſayd nobell William Herbert Lord of Raglan now Earle of Pembroke & S^r. Richard Herbert of Coldbrooke his broder & two Doughters Viz^t.—————wife to S^r. Henry Wogan & Elizabeth wife to S^r. Henry Stradling K^nts. whom God bleſſe and theyr poſteritye.

Collected & ſett downe by good awthorytye by us

Jenan ap Rytherch ap Jenan Lloyd Eſq.
Howell ap Dauid ap Jenan ap Rys gent.

Howell Swrdwall
Jenan Deulwyn } Bardes
Jenan Brechva

N° 9.—*Addition to Chapter* 16, *p.* 153.

ON the authority of a ſepulchral inſcription, in the church of Lanſanfraed, I have conſidered Philip as the eldeſt ſon and heir of Thomas ap Gwillim. But Edmonſon, in his Baronagium, p. 263, does not even mention Philip; and calls ſir William ap Thomas, who was ſeated at Raglan caſtle, the firſt ſon; and in the pedigree, inſerted in the laſt number, Howell, from whom the Powells of Perthir are deſcended, is named firſt. It is not eaſy to reconcile theſe diſcordant accounts; and it muſt be confeſſed that there is a conſiderable diſagreement in the genealogies of the Herberts, preſerved in the Heralds' office, and thoſe in the poſſeſſion of different branches of the family. All that is certainly known is, that Thomas ap Gwillim had ſeveral ſons; ſir William obtained Raglan caſtle; Howell was ſeated at Perthîr; and Philip at Lanſanfraed. Edmonſon mentions Evan as the anceſtor of the Gwyns and Raglans of Glamorganſhire; and David, from whom the Hughſes of Killough, and the Gwithens of Gwent are deſcended.

The deſcendants of Philip ap Thomas, who were ſeated at Lanſanfraed, aſſumed, in 1553, the name of Jones.

The pedigrees differ no leſs in reſpect to the four ſons of Gwillim ap Jenkin, the father of this Thomas, who was ſeated at Lanſanfraed. According to Edmonſon, his four ſons were, 1. Thomas, 2. John or Jenkin, from whom the Progers were deſcended, 3. David, 4. Howell. But in the pedigree, inſerted in the former chapter, as well as in the genealogy of the family of Jones, in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Jones of Clytha, and publiſhed in the Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, Jenkin was the eldeſt, David the ſecond, Howell the third, and Thomas the fourth. We need not, therefore, wonder that the rival houſes of Werndee and Perthîr ſhould diſpute concerning priority of deſcent.

N° 10.—*Inſcription in the Chancel of Lanarth Church*; *referred to in p.* 158.

Sacred
to the Memory of
ELIZABETH
Wife of WILLIAM JONES, Eſquire,
of CLYTHA HOUSE in this PARISH,
who requeſting that ſhe might not be buried in any Church,
lies interred in the adjoining Church Yard.
She was the laſt ſurviving Iſſue and Heir at Law of
Sir William Morgan of Tredegar
in this County, K. B.
by the Right Honourable the Lady Rachel Cavendiſh,
eldeſt daughter to William Second Duke of Devonſhire;
Her Goodneſs and her Worth
were ſo eminently conſpicuous,
that the moſt finiſhed monumental eulogy,
would vainly endeavour to diſplay them.
Yet as ſhe always modeſtly ſhrunk from obſervation,
and ſtudiouſly ſtrove to conceal her various Endowments;
Juſtice to her Memory requires,
that ſome, tho' a very imperfect, ſketch
of her Character be here attempted:
She was bleſt with every hereditary Virtue
of the moſt illuſtrious Houſe of Cavendiſh:
meek, humble, patient,
generous, friendly, noble;
Happily adorn'd with a moſt extenſive Genius,
her Knowledge was vaſt and uncommon:
In Poetry, Muſic, Botany, and all the polite Arts,
She excell'd;
as her Manuſcripts abundantly teſtify:
To enumerate her Virtues were impoſſible;
She was, in ſhort,
Purity and Innocence itſelf:
for if ever thoſe Virtues were perſonified,
they were in her.
An utter Stranger to every ſpecies of Detraction,
She never ſpoke of her neighbour, but with praiſe and commendation.
With a Heart ever bleeding at the Diſtreſſes of others,
the great buſineſs and delight of her Life was
"To do good, and to diſtribute."
Being too good to continue any longer in this World.
She receiv'd with Reſignation, her Summons from its Miſeries,
to the Reward of a Glorious Immortality,
on the 14th day of January, 1787,
in the 58th Year of her Age.

This

This Marble was erected,
and this Inſcription written
by her moſt afflicted and moſt grateful
Huſband,
as a feeble Effort to do ſome Juſtice
to the Memory of the beſt of Wives,
and faintly to expreſs that ſenſe of her Goodneſs
ſo indelibly engraven
on his Heart.

Dear honored Shade! If Angels e'er beſtow
A thought on what is acted here below;
With pitying eye this weak attempt ſurvey,
The laſt ſad tribute which thy Friend can pay.
Thou beſt of Women! once my greateſt pride,
Dearer to me than all the World beſide;
If various Knowledge ever claim'd regard,
If meek-eyed Patience ever met reward,
If e'er the milder Virtues were approv'd,
If ſpotleſs Honor ever was belov'd,
If Mortals may departed Worth revere,
Still let thy Huſband ſhed the ſilent tear;
Still let him hug thy Image to his heart,
From which it never, never ſhall depart.
Yet, yet awhile, and then 'twill be my lot,
To join thy duſt in yon ſequeſter'd ſpot.
Mean time, as flowers ſpontaneous round it bloom,
May white-robed Innocence bedeck thy tomb;
May ſolemn requiems float upon the air,
For ever ſweet to liſtening ſorrow's ear;
While I, obſervant of thy virtues, ſtrive
Like thee to ſuffer, and like thee to live.

N° 11.—*Omiſſion in Chapter* 17, *on the Population of Abergavenny.*

The population of Abergavenny exceeds 2,000 ſouls. The average number of births for the laſt ten years is from 50 to 60, and of deaths from 60 to 70; the exceſs of the burials over the births ariſes from the number of diſſenters, who baptize their children according to their own cuſtom, but have them interred in the church.

N° 12.—*Addition to Chapter* 19.

Churchyard, in his account of the tombs in the church of Abergavenny, deſcribes a ſuperb monument which once ſtood in the middle of the church, though then dilapidated. He informs us that the principal effigies was removed to a window, and ſeveral of the other figures, carved in ſtone, were placed in a porch.

" Amid the church lord Haſtings lay,
" Lord Aborgaynie than:
" And ſince his death remov'd away,
" By fine device of man:
" And layd within a windowe right *,
" Full flat on ſtonie wall:
" Where now he doth in open ſight,
" Remaine to people all.
" The windowe is well made and wrought,
" A coſtly work to ſee:
" In which his noble armes are though
" Of purpoſe there to bee.
" A ragged ſleeve, and ſixe red birds,
" Is portray'd in the glaſſe:
" His wife hath there, her left arm bare,
" It ſeems her ſleeve it was,
" That hangs about his neck full fine,
" Right ore a purple weede:
" A robe of that ſame colour too,
" The ladie weares indeed.
" Under his legges a lyon red,
" His armes are rare and ritch:
" A harrold that could ſhewe them well,
" Can blaſe not many ſitch.
" Sixe lyons white, the ground fayre blew,
" Three flower-de-luces gold;
" The ground of them is red of hew,
" And goodly to behold.
" But note a greater matter now,
" Upon his tomb in ſtone,
" Were fourteene lords that knees did bow †
" Unto this lord alone.
" Of this rare work a porch is made,
" The barrons there remaine
" In good old ſtone, and auncient trade,
" To ſhew all ages plaine,
" What honour was to Haſtings due,
" What honour he did win:
" What armes he gave, and ſo to blaze,
" What lord had Haſtings bin."

It is the general opinion at Abergavenny, derived from long tradition, that this ſumptuous monument was placed in a niche under the moſt eaſterly window of the Herbert chapel, and that the effigies of lord Haſtings was removed to the north window of the Lewis chapel; it is ſuppoſed to be the ſame as the recumbent figure in wood, which I have deſcribed in p. 192, and which ſtill remains in that ſituation. But it appears to me improbable, that a rude figure in wood ſhould be placed as the principal effigies, on a ſumptuous monument of ſtone, adorned with figures in relievo; and in p. 193 I have given my reaſons for ſuppoſing it to repreſent John de Haſtings. The monument deſcribed by Churchyard, was probably that of Lawrence de Haſtings, earl of Pembroke, and lord of Abergavenny; a puiſſant peer, who, according to Dugdale, " in 15 Edward 3, was at that great feaſt and juſting in " London, made by king Edward, for love of the counteſs of Saliſbury, as 'tis ſaid. And in 16 " Edward 3, attending the king into Britanny, with LX men at arms, (himſelf accounted) two ban- " nerets, twelve knights, forty-five eſquires, and an hundred archers on horſeback, till the next en- " ſuing year." Lawrence was buried in this church; for his widow Agnes, daughter of Roger Mortimer, earl of March, " left to the priory of Bergavenny, where her huſband lay interred, a ſuite of " veſtments of green cloth of gold." Baronage, p. 576—7.

Three of the coats of arms mentioned by Churchyard were quartered by Lawrence de Haſtings: 1. Or, a manche gules, Haſtings. 2. Barry argent and azure, an orle of martlets gules, Valence. 3. Azure, 6 lioncels rampant, or, Leybourne, for his mother Julian, daughter and heireſs of Thomas de Leybourne.

Mr.

* " In the windowe now he lyes." † " Some ſay this great lord was called Bruce and not Haſtings, but moſt do hold opinion he was called Haſtings."

Mr. Dinwoody having at my requeſt examined the porch of the church, favoured me with the following communication: Twelve ſtanding figures carved in ſtone, about two feet in height, are placed on the ſide walls in the inſide of the north porch; each bears a ſhield, but ſo much whitewaſhed that no traces of arms are viſible; on the front are four others of the ſame ſize, and apparently of the ſame date, two of which bear ſhields, and the other two ſeem to be females. It is therefore probable, that the fourteen figures with ſhields, are the fourteen barons mentioned by Churchyard.

N° 13.—*Tranſlation of a Grant in the Church Cheſt of Lantilio, or Landeilo Pertholly, Monmouthſhire; referred to in p.* 205.

JASPER, brother and uncle of kings *, duke of Bedford, earl of Pembroke and lord of Abergavenny, greeting, BE IT KNOWN that we the aforeſaid duke have given, granted, and by theſe preſents have confirmed, to all and ſingular the pariſhioners dwelling and inhabiting within the borders and limits of the pariſhes of Lantillio Pertholly, chapel and Lanwenarth cit. Uſk, in our lordſhip of Abergavenny, (that is to ſay) that the aforeſaid pariſhioners, dwellers, and inhabitants, and every of their heirs for the time of their being there, ſhall have liberty of our foreſt of Moyl, of paſture and water for all their goods and *ocn* † chattels there feeding for ever; and alſo to gather dry woods fall by winds, for their own proper uſe, in and upon our whole foreſt, without the diſturbance, interruption and moleſtation of forreſters, or any of our officers whatſoever for the time being, (except all manner of growing woods, underwoods, feedings of pigs, wild honey, ſtray cattle, wayffs, eſcheats, and all other ‡ emoluments belonging from old time to our foreſt aforeſaid, which are reſerved to us and our heirs for ever.) To HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforeſaid libertys and premiſes, to the aforeſaid pariſhioners, dwellers, and inhabitants, and their heirs (except as before excepted by us and our heirs) for ever, paying therefore yearly the ſum of twenty ſhillings ſterling to us and our heirs on the feaſt of Annunciation of the bleſſed Virgin Mary, and on the feaſt of St. Michael the Archangel, in two equal portions; and if it happens that the ſaid ſum of twenty ſhillings, or any part thereof, ſhall be behind and unpaid for the ſpace of one month, after any of the feaſts whereon it ought to be paid, it may be lawful for us or our heirs, or any of our ſtewards, to diſtrain in the three places within the borders and limits of the aforeſaid pariſhes of Lantillio, Chapel, and Lanwenarth Cit: whomſoever we think proper; and we the aforeſaid duke and our heirs have truly warranted the aforeſaid premiſes & libertys to the aforeſaid pariſhioners, dwellers, & inhabitants for the time of their being there (except as before excepted) againſt all people for ever: IN WITNESS whereof, we have granted theſe our letters patent. Teſt: Walter Herbert, knight, ſteward of our court of Abergavenny, John Thomas, eſquire, of the ſame court, Morgan ap David ap Elice and others, dated at Abergavenny, ſealed with the ſeal of the chancellor of our lordſhip there, the tenth day of May, in the eighth year of the reign of king Henry the ſeventh.

This is a true tranſlation of the letter patent, granted by the within named Jaſper lord of Abergavenny, to the within mentioned pariſhioners, &c.. Examined and compared with the original, (which is now depoſited with Mrs. Frances Morgan of Trawoſcoed in the pariſh of Lanwenarth) at a pariſh meeting held in the pariſh of Lanwenarth, the 31ſt day of December, 1748. By us

Evan Jones, curate there,	Henry Lewis,	Walter Edwards,	Thomas Phillips,
William Williams,	John Jones,	John Price,	James Jones.
William Lewis,	Benjamin Jones,	Joſhua Price,	

Truly copied and compared the 19th February, 1770,
By me James Jones.

* Jaſper was half brother to king Henry the 6th, and uncle to king Henry the 7th.

† Thus in the copy of the tranſlation.

‡ The word in the original ſignifies royalties, which is here rendered emoluments.

N° 14.—*Additions to Chapter* 30.

Fac-ſimile of the Seal of the Abbey of Grace Dieu, mentioned in p. 289.

Account of Caeluch.

ABOUT three quarters of a mile from Landeilo, is the ancient and picturesque manſion of Caeluch, or Kyllough, now a farm houſe; it was formerly the ſeat of the family of Hughs, deſcended, according to Edmonſon *, from David, ſon of Thomas ap Gwillim, and brother of ſir William ap Thomas. To this family, I find in the archives of the duchy of Lancaſter, numerous grants of lands from the lords of White Caſtle. It afterwards came either by inheritance or marriage to the family of Powell, the heireſs of which eſpouſed, according to tradition †, Digby, lord Gerard of Bromley in Kent, who retained poſſeſſion of this eſtate during his life time. On his death it was claimed by James, third duke of Hamilton, in virtue of his marriage with Eliſabeth, daughter of lord Gerard, by a ſecond wife. A law ſuit enſued, in which the duke of Hamilton was caſt, and the eſtate adjudged to the heirs of the Powell family. It was afterwards purchaſed by Mr. Medlicott, agent to the duke of Beaufort, and ſold by his ſon to the late Mr. Lewis.

The houſe contains ſeveral remains of former magnificence, particularly in the painted glaſs windows, emblazoned with arms, and ornamented with figures; among which, are thoſe of St. George and the dragon, not ill executed. On the wall of the parlour is a braſs plate carved with the Medlicott arms; quarterly gules and azure, per feſs indented; three lions rampant argent, with this inſcription, Thomas Medlicott Arm. obiit, 21 Julii, 1737, Ætatis ſuæ, 78. In an upper apartment is a curious old oak chimney-piece, on which is carved the crucifixion, with groteſque ornaments, and rude figures of ſaints and angels; in the center is a ſhield of arms ‡, with the date of 1625.

N° 15.—*Addition to Chapter* 31, *on Monmouth.*

MR. Owen Tudor, bookſeller of Monmouth, poſſeſſes a ſmall collection of pictures, among which one deſerves particular notice; it is a Holy Family by Franceſchino, one of the laſt of the Bologneſe ſchool, in which the painter has happily imitated the ſtyle of Corregio, in the figure of Joſeph and the Madonna of Ludovico Caracci in the St. John, and of Dominichino in the child. Sir Joſhua Reynolds was much pleaſed with this picture. This painting was brought to England by the Rev. Mr. Eliſon, who reſided at Rome, and had a chapel in Little Wild Street, London.

* Baronagium, p. 263.

† According to one account, lord Gerard had by Miſs Powell, a ſon, who reſided at Caeluch, but died without iſſue before his father: according to another account, lord Gerard had no iſſue by Miſs Powell, but retained poſſeſſion of her eſtate until his death. On ſearching the Heralds' office, I could not diſcover that Digby, lord Gerard, had any ſon He eſpouſed ſecondly, Eliſabeth, daughter of Charles lord Gerard, of Brandon in Suffolk, and earl of Macclesfield, dying in 1711 without male iſſue, the title of baron Gerard of Bromley became extinct; but the duke of Hamilton was created duke of Brandon.

‡ Apparently charged with a lion rampant in chief, three greyhounds currant in baſe, and a palm tree on the dexter ſide in pale. A view of the houſe, from a drawing taken by Mr. John Tudor, is given on the ſame plate with thoſe of Wernddee, Perthir, and Treowen.

N° 16.—PAPERS

relative to the

TRADE OF CHEPSTOW,

(referred to in p. 360.)

(Communicated by the late THOMAS IRVING, Esq. Inspector General of the Exports and Imports.)

The NUMBER of VESSELS, and their TONNAGE, with the NUMBER of MEN usually employed (including their repeated Voyages) which entered and cleared Coastways in the Port of *CHEPSTOW*, and in the Member Port of *NEWPORT*, from 1791 to 1797 inclusive.

CHEPSTOW.

Years.	INWARDS.			Years.	OUTWARDS.		
	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.		Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.
1791	270	15,898	1,379	1791	457	26,378	2,465
1792	412	25,152	2,281	1792	653	38,102	3,600
1793	306	18,723	2,253	1793	560	31,923	3,016
1794	389	23,528	2,166	1794	518	32,803	3,217
1795	372	23,080	1,981	1795	389	24,866	2,178
1796	463	27,813	2,303	1796	431	29,352	2,497
1797	503	29,205	2,732	1797	468	31,016	2,610

NEWPORT.

Years.	INWARDS.			Years.	OUTWARDS.		
	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.		Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.
1791	202	10,580	898	1791	247	12,349	1,051
1792	188	7,414	732	1792	304	13,734	1,183
1793	189	9,185	827	1793	291	14,507	1,189
1794	190	9,305	841	1794	258	12,776	1,075
1795	295	12,190	1,023	1795	243	11,607	990

*** No return from this Port later than 1795.

The NUMBER of VESSELS, with their TONNAGE and NUMBER of MEN, including their repeated Voyages, that have entered Inwards and cleared Outwards, at the Port of *CHEPSTOW*, from 1791 to 1797.

INWARDS.

BRITISH VESSELS.	1791.			1792.			1793.			1794.			1795.			1796.			1797.		
	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.
Denmark	2	310	–	9	1,119	63															
Ruſſia	3	709	–	9	2,267	97	5	1,008	50	4	837	44	1	266	11						
Pruſſia	2	308	–	5	1,171	50															
Portugal	2	180	–	2	180	12	–	–	–	1	71	6									
Spain	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	191	15									
Ireland	3	247	–	6	616	36	8	731	50	36	3,825	229	20	1,998	114	38	4,073	241	23	2,706	151
States of America	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	469	20												
TOTAL of BRITISH SHIPPING	12	1,754	–	31	5,353	258	15	2,208	120	42	4,924	294	21	2,264	125	38	4,073	241	23	2,706	151
FOREIGN VESSELS.																					
Denmark	3	360	–	2	320	19	1	180	11	–	–	–	2	410	24	–	–	–	2	320	23
States of America	2	338																			
Spain	1	130																			
TOTAL of FOREIGN SHIPPING	6	828	–	2	320	19	1	180	11	–	–	–	2	410	24	–	–	–	2	320	23

OUTWARDS.

BRITISH VESSELS.	1791.			1792.			1793.			1794.			1795.			1796.			1797.		
	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons	Men.	Veſſ.	Tons.	Men.
Ruſſia	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	235	13												
Pruſſia	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	303	12												
Portugal	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	120	9									
Ireland	117	8,498	–	120	9,961	559	88	7,360	476	115	8,119	578	89	7,224	439	118	9,791	599	91	7,434	439
Brit. Cont. Colonies	–	–	–	–		–	1	269	13												
Iſle of Man	1	31																			
TOTAL of BRITISH SHIPPING	118	8,529	–	120	9,961	559	91	8,167	514	116	8,239	587	89	7,224	439	118	9,791	599	91	7,43	439
FOREIGN VESSELS.																					
Denmark	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	410	24	–	–	–	3	320	23
Portugal	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	180	11	1	120	9									
States of America	1	199																			
Holland	1	120																			
TOTAL of FOREIGN SHIPPING	2	319	–	–	–	–	1	180	11	1	120	9	2	410	24	–	–	–	3	320	23

An ACCOUNT of the SPECIES and QUANTITY of FOREIGN MERCHANDIZE IMPORTED into the Port of *CHEPSTOW*, from 1791 to 1797 inclusive.

SPECIES OF GOODS.	1791. Quantity.	1792. Quantity.	1793. Quantity.	1794. Quantity.	1795. Quantity.	1796. Quantity.	1797. Quantity.
Aſhes Pearl and Pot - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	30.2.21						
Bell Metal - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	15.0.5				
Books - - - *Cwt. qr lb.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.2.4
Bottles Glaſs - *Doz. No.*	—	—	—	0.3			
Cables - - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	183.0.0						
Capers - - - - - *lbs.*	—	—	—	6			
Cattle, Cows and Oxen - *No.*	—	—	—	—	—	12	
——— Swine - - - *No.*	—	—	—	—	—	100	12
Corn, Barley - - *Qrs. buſh.*	—	—	11.4	914.1			
—— Oats - - *Qrs. buſh.*	262.0	2,745.3	349.0				
Cordage - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	3.0.0	29.1.20	3.3.16			
Cork - - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	821.2.12	51.1.20	—	948.0.20			
Feathers for Beds *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	2.3.10	—	—	0.1.37
Fruit, Lemons & Oranges *No.*	1,000						
Grocery, Plumbs - - *lbs.*	96½	55					
Hemp, Rough - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	1,812.1.17	1,205.2.8				
Horns, Ox or Cow - *No.*	1,238						
Iron, Bar - *Tons. C. qr. lb.*	99.18.3.24	250.3.2.19	97.6 2.15	160.14.3.12	50.5.2.16	—	9.12.0.19
—— Caſt - *Tons. C. qr. lb.*	—	—	9.12.2.10				
—— Pig - - - *Tons.*	—	—	20.0.0.0				
Linen. Iriſh, Plain - - *Yards*	7,500	19,630	33,740	800	—	2,720	13,800
Linen. —above 36 Inch. *C. q. ells*	—	—	1.2.2				
Linen. Ruſſia Towelling & Napkening *C. qr. ells.*	—	—	1.2.5				
Linen. Sail Cloth - *C. qrs. ells.*	—	0.1.17	0.3.5			—	
Linſeed Cakes *Tons. C. qr. lb.*	—	—	30.0.0.0				
Mats, Ruſſia - - - *No.*	—	—	285	504			
Oakam - *Tons C. qr. lb.*	—	3.3.0.18					
Oil, Sallad - - - *Gallons.*	—	—	—	11½			
Onions - - - - *Buſhels.*	22	40	—	1			
Proviſions, Bread and Biſcuit - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	—	243.3.9	
——— Butter *Cwt. qr. lb.*	6.0.0	38.2.26					
Rags - *Tons. Cwt. qrs lb.*	—	—	6.0.0.27	6.0.2.16			
Seeds, Linſeed - - *Buſhels.*	20						
Skins, Calf, Raw - *Doz. No.*	—	—	62.0				
Tallow - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	6.0.0	403.1.16				
Tar - - - *Laſts, Barrels.*	—	0.2	17.8	1.8	—	—	0.9
Wine, Portugal - *Tuns. H. G.*	158.2.58	185.1.57	—	19.0.52			
Wood. Battens - - *C. qr. No.*	32.0.10	70.0.13	25.0.15	—	23.3.0	—	15.1.22
Wood. Batten Ends *C. qr. No.*	2.0.0	—	4.0.0				
Wood. Boards, Paling *C. qr. No.*	5.3.1	21.3.0	—	—	13.0.0	—	10.2.0
Wood. Deals - - *Cwt. No.*	225 2.7	532.1.18	152.0.3	130.2.25	135.2.18	—	73.2.23
Wood. Deal Ends - *C. qr. lb.*	4.1.28	28.3.4	6.2.10	8.1.16	7.3.19	—	9.0.14
Wood. Firewood - - *Fathoms.*	—	2	—				
Wood. Handſpikes - *C. No.*	0.0.15	0.3.6			0.3.18	—	2.3.6
Wood. Lathwood - *Fathoms.*	41½	55¼	15	2			
Wood. Maſts, 6 to 8 Inches diam. - - *No.*	71	27	3	16	2	—	6
Wood. —— 8 to 12 - - *No.*	38	42	2	16	60	—	17
Wood. —— 12 and upwards *No.*	4	6	—	—	*lds. ft.* 16.11	—	*lds. ft.* 1.11
Wood. Oars - - - *C. No.*	—	0.3.22	—	—	0.1.24		
Wood. Plank, Maple - *Lds. feet.*	1.30						
Wood. —— Oak - *Lds. feet.*	—	—	8.28				
Wood. —— Pine - *Lds. feet.*	2.27						
Wood. Rafters for Oars - *C. No*	—	—	3.1.0				
Wood. Spars - - - *C. No.*	2.2.19	2.2.6	0.1.25	0.0.18	1.2.26	—	0.2.6
Wood. Staves - - *Cwt. No.*	317.0.23	26.2.0	183.3.2				
Wood. Timber, Fir - *Lds. feet.*	698.29	1,813.26	263.12	44.9	—	—	40.0
Wood. ——— Oak *Lds. feet*	101.35	—	11.11				
Wood. Ufers - - - *C. No.*	1.1.6	1.1.24	—	—	0.1.24		
Wood. Wainſcot Logs *Lds. feet.*	11.5½	33.42					

ACCOUNT of the SPECIES and QUANTITY of BRITISH and FOREIGN MERCHANDIZE EXPORTED from the Port of *CHEPSTOW*, from 1791 to 1797 inclusive.

SPECIES OF GOODS.	1791. Quantity.	1792. Quantity.	1793. Quantity.	1794. Quantity.	1795. Quantity.	1796. Quantity.	1797. Quantity.
Apples - - - - *Bush.*	71	114	149	228	69		
Bark, Oak *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	4,028.0.0.0	4,765.15.0.0	3,838.17 0 0	4,338.18.0.0	3,813.16 0.0	5,199.19.0 0	3,913.15.0 0
Beer - - - *Tuns. H. G.*	7 . 0 . 36						
Bricks - - - - - *No.*	39,005	12,000	22,500	31,300	35,340	35,000	4,800
Braſs Wro^t. - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	86 1 . 13						
Coal Tar *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	87 . 0 . 0 . 0						
Colours for Painters *Cwt q. lb.*	—	—	—	—	1 . 2 . 0		
Cyder - - *Tuns. H. G.*	23 0 . 18	215 . 1 . 37	103 . 1 . 19	26 . 0 . 39	22 . 2 . 61	53 . 2 . 62	0 . 0 . 34
Fruit, Walnuts - - *No.*	—	—	—	—	20,000		
Glaſs - - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	80 . 0 . 0	3 . 0 . 0					
—— and E. Ware - *Pieces.*	1,200						
Grindleſtones *Ts. Cwt. qr. lb*	—	—	—	—	—	26 . 0 . 0 . 0	
Hops - - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	75 . 2 . 17	29 . 1 . 27	—	7 . 3 . 0	6 . 2 . 12	
Hoops, ſeveral Sorts - *Value*	£. 115 . 17 . 6	£. 124 . 10 . 0	£. 195 . 17 . 6	£. 826 . 5 . 0	£. 1,092 . 2 . 0	£. 1,074 . 0 . 4	£. 610 . 15 . 0
Iron, Bar *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	2 . 5 . 0 . 0	—	9 . 2 . 3 . 22	83 . 6 . 1 . 0	7 . 10 . 2 . 0	12 . 17 . 2 . 24
—— Nail's - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	—	7 . 0 . 0	
—— Pig *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	246 . 0 . 0 . 0	596 . 0 . 0 . 0	717 . 10 . 0 . 0	871 . 19 . 0 . 0	739 . 6 . 0 . 0	569 . 1 . 0 . 0	171 . 10 . 0 . 0
—— Plate *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	4 . 0 . 0 . 0					
—— Wire *Tons Cwt. qr. lb.*	4 . 0 . 0 . 0	6 . 8 . 3 . 7	4 . 10 . 0 . 0	20 . 1 . 3 . 17	18 . 3 . 3 . 5	9 . 5 . 0 . 14	4 . 5 . 0 . 13
—— Wrought *Ts. Cwt. qr. lb.*	107 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	2 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	—	—	6 . 0 . 0 . 0
Lead - *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	4 . 4 . 2 . 7	—	14 . 17 . 2 . 0		
Paper, Glazed *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	9 . 1 . 6	56 . 2 . 24		
Proviſions, Cheeſe *Cwt. q. lb.*	7 . 0 , 0	13 . 0 . 0	24 . 0 . 0	101 . 0 . 0	—	15 . 0 . 0	
Stones, Paving *Ts. Cwt qr. lb.*	16 . 0 . 0 . 0	20 . 0 . 0 . 0	18 . 0 . 0 . 0	5 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	10 . 0 . 0 . 0	10 . 0 . 0 . 0
——Slate *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	5 . 10 . 0 . 0					
Steel - - - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	5 . 2 . 14					
Sugar, Refined *Cwt. qr, lb.*	1 . 2 . 0						
Tin Plates *Tons. Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	22 . 10 . 1 . 0	27 . 5 . 2 . 14	43 . 0 . 0 . 0	
Vinegar - - *Tuns. H. G.*	—	—	—	—	—	1 . 0 . 60	
Wood. Brazil - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	72 . 0 . 14		
Wood. Elm Boards - *Feet.*	—	—	—	—	—	300	
Wood. Fuſtick - *Cwt. qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	65 . 1 . 20		
Wood. Logwood *Cwt qr. lb.*	—	—	—	—	39 . 2 . 9		
Wood. Spokes for Wheels - *No*	—	—	—	2,200	—	2,364	
Wood. Timber, Aſh *Ts. Ct. q. lb.*	26 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	—	70 . 0 . 0 . 0	3 . 0 . 0 . 0	12 . 0 . 0 . 0	
Wood. —Beech *Ts. Cwt. qr. lb.*	10 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	—	30 . 0 . 0 . 0	6 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	38 . 10 . 0 . 0
Wood. —Elm & Plank *Ts. Ct. q. lb.*	51 . 0 . 0 . 0	—	—	14 . 0 . 0 . 0	1 . 0 . 0 . 0	216 . 0 . 0 . 0	23 . 0 . 0 . 0
Wood. —Oak & Plank *Ts. Ct q lb*	339 . 0 . 0 . 0	376 . 0 . 0 . 0	111 . 0 . 0 . 0	495 . 10 . 0 . 0	64 . 0 . 0 . 0	83 . 0 . 0 . 0	236 . 0 . 0 . 0
Tree-nails - - *No.*	6,000	—	—	6,000	1,000	4,200	12,000

N° 17.—*Omiſſion in Chapter* 40, *p.* 397.

MARK WOOD, eſq. the preſent proprietor of Piercefield, is the repreſentative of the ancient family of Wood, of Largo, in the county of Fyfe. His arms are, argent, an oak tree, eradicated proper, fructuated or; creſt, on a wreath of his liveries, a ſhip in full ſail, proper, and ſurmounted by a motto, "*Tutus in undis*;" ſupporters, two ſailors, caps and jackets vert, lappels, cuffs, and trowſers, argent*.

Theſe arms are thus minutely ſpecified, becauſe they were conferred on one of his anceſtors, Sir Andrew Wood, a Scottiſh admiral, who was knighted by James the fourth, for a victory obtained over the Engliſh fleet.

* Theſe arms are engraved on the plan of Piercefield grounds. Extract from the matriculation of Wood, of Largo, in the Heralds College of Scotland.

A List *of the* Principal Books *occaſionally conſulted in the Courſe of this Publication.*

Antiquarian Repertory, 2 vols. 4to.

Cambrian Regiſter, 2 v. 8vo.
Caradoc's Hiſtory of Wales, tranſlated by Powell, 8vo.
Camden.—Gough's Edition, 3 v. fol.
Churchyard's Worthines of Wales, 12mo.
Collins's Peerage, 9 v. 8vo.

Ducarel's Alien Priories, 2 v. 12mo.
Dugdale's Baronage, 2 v. fol. Monaſticon, 3 v. fol. with Supplement, by Stevens.

Edmonſon's Baronagium Genealogicum, 6 v. fol. and Heraldry, 2 v. fol.
Enderbie, fol.

Fuller's Worthies, fol.

Giraldus Cambrenſis, Iter Cambriæ, 12mo.
Godwin de Præſulibus Angliæ, fol.

Harris's Obſervations on the Julia Strata, and on the Roman Stations, Forts, and Camps in the Counties of Monmouth, Brecknock, Caermarthen, and Glamorgan.—Archæologia, vol. ii.
Horſley's Commentary on Antonine, fol.

Jones's Index to Records in the Exchequer, 2 v. fol.

Lambarde's Dictionary, 4to.
Leland's Itinerary, and Collectanea, 6 v. 8vo.
Lives of the Fathers, principal Martyrs, and other Saints, 12 v. 8vo.

Maddox's Hiſtory of the Exchequer, 2 v. 4to.

Nicholſon's Hiſtorical Libraries, 4to.

Reynolds's Iter Britanniarum, 4to.
Ricardi Corinenſis Monachi Weſtmonaſterienſis de Situ Brittanniæ Libri duo: printed in Bertram's Britannicarum Gentium Hiſtoriæ Antiquæ Scriptores tres.
Rogers's Secret Memoirs of Monmouthſhire. 18mo.

Sandford and Stebbing's Genealogical Hiſtory, fol.
Speed, fol.
Stowe's Annals, fol.
Strange's Account of ſome Remains of Roman and other Antiquities in Monmouthſhire.—Archæologia, vol. v.
——— Remarks on the Reverend William Harris's Obſervations on the Roman Antiquities in Monmouthſhire, and the neighbouring Counties of Wales; with an Account of ſome curious Remains of Antiquity in Glamorganſhire.—Archæologia, vol. vi.
Stukeley's Itinera Curioſa, 2 v. fol.

Tanner's Notitia Monaſtica, fol.

Williams's Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire, 4to.
Willis's Hiſtory of Mitred Abbies, 2 v. 8vo.
Wood's Athenæ Oxonienſes, 2 v. fol.
Worceſtre, Wilelmi de, Itinerarium, 8vo.
Wyndham's Tour in Monmouthſhire and Wales, 4to.

Addenda to Chapter 34.

Further Information concerning JOHN of KENT; communicated by Mr. Owen.

John of Kent was a favourite Poet among the Welſh, and there is ſcarcely a Welſh MS. which does not contain ſome of his Pieces. He may be claſſed likewiſe among the early and eminent Lollards, as his Writings are filled with Doctrines hoſtile to the Roman Catholic Religion. His boldneſs in conſigning ſuch opinions to writing would have expoſed him to great danger, had he uſed a language more generally underſtood. It is difficult to give a Catalogue of all his Works, which are extremely numerous; the following Liſt is compiled merely from the Index of the Welſh School MSS.

Mr. Owen is of opinion, that the author of theſe Pieces probably flouriſhed between A. D. 1360 and 1430.

A Liſt of the Welſh Poetical Pieces by John of Kent, which are ſtill preſerved:

The Three Periods of Life.
The Trinity.
The Creation.
An Invitation to praiſe God for his Grace.
To his own Purſe.
The World.
Shewing the Afflictions of the World.
A Lamentation for the Condition of the Welſh under Henry IV.
On the World, with an Invitation to truſt in God.
The Uncertainty of the World.
To the Proud and the Covetous.
On the World.
To God.
On the World.
The ſame Subject.
An Addreſs to God.
Paraphraſe on the 21ſt Chapter of St. Luke.
The Miſer.
On the Ten Commandments.
A Divine Poem.
The Day of Judgment.
The Seven Deadly Sins.
An Addreſs to the Deity.
To the World.
Againſt Murder.
A Satire on the Bards.
An Anſwer to the above, by Rhys Goç Eryri.
The Reprehenſion of the Clergy.
The Miſer.
The Prediction.
The Three Mortal Foes.
To Old Age.
The Redemption.
The Fall of Man.
To the World.
On the Life of Man.
To the World.
A Divine Piece.
The ſame Subject.

Antiquities recently diſcovered at Caerleon.

SINCE the whole of this work was printed, I received from my friend Mr. Evans an account of ſome Roman antiquities recently found at Caerleon. They were diſcovered by Mr. Gethin, maſter of the market boat to Briſtol, who was building and repairing a houſe near the church yard, which he holds under the biſhop and chapter of Landaff. In digging a ſaw-pit, the ſtone N° 1 was diſcovered in the beginning of June, and N°ˢ 2 and 3 in the month of September.

N° 1 is of freeſtone, of an oblong ſhape, 3 feet long, 2 broad, and 1 foot 9 inches thick; it contained two inſcriptions, one of which, on the broadeſt ſide, was defaced by the maſon employed to clean the ſtone, and the other, on the narroweſt, is only in part viſible.

N° 1.
DEDICATV
VRF
OG ES
VE NIO
MAXIMOIE
FVRPAN°
COS

The only inference we can draw from this dilapidated inſcription, is, that it was probably dedicated in the conſulate of Maximus and Urinatus Urbanus, in the laſt year of the reign of Alexander Severus. *.

N°ˢ 2 and 3 are evidently two parts of one ſtone, the dimenſions of which, together, are 9 feet in length, 19 inches broad, and 15 thick; mutilated inſcriptions remain on the two ſides; that on the broader ſide, N° 2, appears to be a votive inſcription by the ſecond Auguſtan Legion, and perhaps the other, N° 3, indicated the time in which it was erected.

N° 2.
NN
AVGG
GENIO
LEG
II AVG
INH°N°
REMMI'T
M VA
F H
I V
L E
S C
PP
DD

N° 3.
DD
VIIII
OCCB
PRCR
EIML
COS
CVR
VRSO
AGTæ
EI : IVS

The plinth which formed the baſe of the firſt ſtone was likewiſe diſcovered, and as theſe ſtones were found within a few feet of each other, Mr. Evans conjectures that the whole formed a kind of pillar.

* See Faſti Conſulares, in Dufreſnoy's Chronological Tables, vol. i. p. 219.

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